HISTORY

OF THE

Abduction and Murder

OF

Capt. William Morgan

EZRA A. COOK, Publisher
Incorporated
26 E. Van Buren St., Chicago, Illinois
1920

A NARRATIVE

OF THE

FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES

RELATING TO THE

KIDNAPING AND MURDER

OF

WILLIAM MORGAN

and of the attempt
to carry off DAVID C. MILLER,
and to burn or destroy the printing-office of the
latter for the purpose of preventing the printing and
publishing of a book, entitled

"ILLUSTRATIONS OF MASONRY"

PREPARED

under the direction of the several committees appointed at meetings of the citizens of the counties of Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Monroe and Niagara, in the State of New York:

CONTAINING MOST OF THE DEPOSITIONS

and other documents to substantiate the statements made, and disclosing many particulars of the transactions.

BATAVIA:
Printed by D. C. MILLER, under the Direction of the Committees, 1827.

Also the
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.
Containing the Report of the
CORONER'S INQUEST ON THE BODY OF WM. MORGAN, ETC.

EZRA A. COOK, PUBLISHER,
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INTRODUCTION.

THE following Narrative has been compiled with as much care and accuracy as the circumstances would admit. It has been frequently called for, and, as many may think, has been too long kept back; but the causes of delay were such as the committees could not prevent or obviate. We trust that it will be found to contain a plain and unvarnished statement, and that we have used no harsh terms or extravagant expressions. The committees have considered the duty of preparing it as one the performance of which they could not neglect, without disappointing the reasonable expectations of a large number of their respectable fellow-citizens. The transaction, detailed in the Narrative, have in themselves a character of such enormous wickedness—they exhibit such utter disregard of all those principles and rules of conduct which have, heretofore, been held sacred in all civilized communities—their consequences seem to us so entirely subversive of the principles of our government, and so destructive of our rights, that any attempt on our part to comment upon them appeared superfluous.

The general voice of the community has been heard already. The free and enlightened citizens of our country have not been unmindful of the duty they owed to themselves, their country, and their offspring.

We have not been left to act alone and unsupported. Whatever apprehensions some of us might at first have entertained, as to the extent of the enmity and violence we might be called upon to encounter in the prosecution of objects we had in view, we were not long left in doubt or apprehension whether we should receive the support of the virtuous part of our countrymen.

These objects were, **First**—To aid in re-establishing the authority of the laws, by the restoration of William Morgan to his country, his liberty, and his family.

Secondly—To aid in the discovery, exposure and punishment of those who had by violence and fraud deprived him of his liberty, and as we now believe, of his life.

Thirdly—The discovery and disclosure of the extent of the conspiracy, which, it was manifest to us, had been formed to effect the unlawful objects of the conspirators. And,

Fourthly—The making known to the public the principles and motives which appeared to have governed the conspirators, so far as those principles seem to us in direct hostility to our civil rights, and so far as those motives are calculated to prompt persons, under their influence, to actions destructive of, and inconsistent with, our free institutions.

The first of these declared objects, we deeply regret to say, we have failed to accomplish, and scarcely a ray of hope enlightens the dark cloud of guilt and mystery which impends over the fate of our fellow-citizen.

The probability that several hundred of our fellow-citizens, most of whom had heretofore maintained a good character, had conspired to effect the **murder** of a helpless man seemed to us so shocking, so at war with that reverence for the life of our fellow-creatures, which God himself has impressed upon the human mind, so decidely in opposition to that general benevolence of feeling which has distinguished our countrymen in particular, that for many months we resisted the supposition, of the bare possibility of such a crime, with disgust and horror. We were unwilling to believe that respectable men would directly, or indirectly, suggest or aid the commission of a crime, which seldom escapes punishment, or expose themselves to the disgrace which any attempts on their part to baffle investigation by secrecy or silence could not fail eventually to bring upon them. But we have been compelled to feel the justice of the remark made to us by one well versed in the operations of the human mind: **"That when the Demon of fanaticism is at work, there is no knowing to what extent of mischief and turpitude he may lead his disciples."**

The second object has been, in part, effected by the influence of that high and holy regard to official duty, which has operated upon the public **officers** and **Grand Jury of Ontario County**, and which is still manifesting itself by a faithful application of the powers vested in them by their country. How far their honorable example will be imitated in other counties remains to be seen.

The third and fourth objects it is not intended to prosecute in the following statement, excepting so far as they may be of necessity brought into view in the detail of facts which we purpose to make.

We do not feel qualified, nor have we time, for the proper performance of a duty in which our fellow-citizens, and those who shall succeed us, are so deeply interested. Time, the test of truth, which brings to light the hidden works of iniquity, and exposes the unhallowed designs of the guilty, will contribute to unfold the principles and motives which have prompted the crimes of fraudulent arrests, by the abuse of civil process, riot, kidnapping, and perhaps murder, and which have induced so many to sanction them openly.

Those who have more leisure and more ability than ourselves, may, and we have no doubt will, hereafter call the attention of our fellow-citizens to the questions, how far these principles are in conformity with our republican maxims—how far their influence is calculated to corrupt and destroy the integrity of the human mind—and how far the existence of the source from which they are believed to emanate is reconcilable with the stability and preservation of the constitution, and the enjoyments of our rights and liberties.

We trust we have no desire to give to the transactions we have detailed a consequence which they do not deserve. Those actions cannot be unimportant, in which so large a portion of our countrymen have taken so deep an interest. That they have done so, we think is honorable to themselves, useful to their country, and has been gratifying to us.

We have studiously, and we hope conscientiously, avoided throwing the slightest imputations upon any one, however humble his situation in life, when a correct statement of facts did not require it; and we have not refused to disclose the names of the actors, when we had unexceptionable evidence of the parts they have performed. We have disclosed things truly as they have come to our knowledge, without fear or favor.

Publishers' Preface

"Cynosure Edition"

The republication of the "Old Morgan Book," Illustrations of Masonry, has awakened such an intense interest in the history of its author, that a carefully prepared narrative of the kidnaping and murder of Capt. William Morgan, for revealing the secrets of Freemasonry, seems urgently called for.

Such a narrative—prepared by seven committees of influential, honest citizens of the State of New York, fully substantiated by legal evidence, we now present to the reader.

In re-arranging the book, so as to put the matter formerly in the Appendix into the body of the book, it has been found necessary to occasionally change the wording a little, without in the least altering the sense; otherwise the present edition is a copy of the original.

The overwhelming evidence found in this book, that Freemasons throughout the United States and Canada were either engaged in or accessory to these horrible crimes, and the further evidence, given by Freemasons themselves, under oath, that they felt compelled to commit these crimes in defense of the institution of Freemasonry, must make this book an exceedingly valuable document.

EZRA A. COOK PUB. INC.

Freemasonry Convicted of High Crimes

SEIZURE AND ABDUCTION OF CAPT. WM. MORGAN—ATTEMPT TO CARRY OFF COL. MILLER AND BURN HIS PRINTING-OFFICE—IMPORTANT DEPOSITIONS—IMPLICATION OF PROMINENT CITIZENS IN THE OUTRAGES—FREEMASONS FROM DISTANT POINTS TAKE PART IN THE LAWLESS PROCEEDINGS—A LARGE NUMBER OF MASONIC LODGES PROVED TO HAVE AGREED ON THESE UNLAWFUL ACTS OF VIOLENCE—OFFICERS OF THE LAW PROMINENT AMONG THE CONSPIRATORS.

William Morgan was a native of the State of Virginia, born in Culpeper county, in the year 1775 or 6, and a mason by trade. Having by his industry accumulated a fund sufficient for the purpose, he commenced business as a trader or merchant in Richmond in that State.

During his residence there, in October, 1819, he married Lucinda Pendleton, the oldest daughter of Rev. Joseph Pendleton of the Methodist connection, and a respectable planter, residing in Washington county. He removed from the State of Virginia in the fall of 1821, and commenced the business of a brewer, near York in Upper Canada. The destruction of his establishment by fire, reduced him from a comfortable situation to poverty, and rendered it necessary for him to resume his trade of a mason with that intention he moved to Rochester in this State, where he labored at that business for some time. From Rochester he removed to Batavia in Genesee county, where he worked at his trade until a short time before he was carried away from his home and his family. Sometime in the year 1826, rumors were heard that Morgan, in connection with other persons, was preparing and intended to publish a book which would reveal the secrets of Freemasonry, and that David C. Miller, a printer in the village of Batavia, was engaged in putting the work to the press. This rumor, like all others in which the community at large feel no interest, excited no attention from the respectable part of it, who supposed that the publication, whatever it might be, was intended as a catch-penny production for the supply of pedlars and hawkers. It was at last noticed by some of the citizens, that an excitement of some kind existed among certain persons in the village in relation to the publication of the book which it was said Morgan was engaged in compiling; and it was at length openly avowed by a number of persons, who were understood to be members of the Masonic fraternity, that the suppression of the work was determined on at all hazards. A large number of the subscribers of Mr. Miller's paper suddenly

withdrew their subscriptions, numerous suits were commenced against him to enforce the payment of small debts, and their collection was prosecuted in the manner most calculated to distress and embarrass him.

On the ninth day of August, 1826, an advertisement was inserted in a paper printed in Canandaigua, of which the following is an exact copy:

"NOTICE AND CAUTION.

"If a man calling himself William Morgan should intrude himself on the community, they should be on their guard, particularly the MASONIC FRATERNITY. Morgan was in this village in May last, and his conduct while here and elsewhere, calls forth this notice. Any information in relation to Morgan can be obtained by calling at the MASONIC HALL in this village. *Brethren and Companions* are particularly requested to *observe, mark* and *govern* themselves accordingly.

☞Morgan is considered a swindler and dangerous man.

☞There are people in this village who would be happy to see this Capt. Morgan.

Canandaigua, August 9th, 1826."

This notice and caution was immediately copied into the "Spirit of the Times" and the "People's Press," two newspapers printed in the village of Batavia, and, as we are well assured, it was inserted in many other public papers printed in the western counties of this State.

We are assured also, and to some of the Committee it is personally known, that about the same time that this notice appeared Morgan and Miller were industriously slandered, and abusive epithets heaped upon them, by a number of individuals who alleged no particular crimes against them and with whom they were not known to have any recent connections or collisions whatever, that were apparent to the public at large.

Miller declared to his particular friends that he was alarmed for his personal safety, and feared an attack upon his office, and he took measures to defend himself against secret or open violence. What reasons he had for his apprehensions we do not think it necessary or proper to state in this place, but the most careless observer took notice that the reputed members of the Masonic fraternity had frequent assemblages, and very many strangers appeared in and disappeared from the village of Batavia, without openly assigning any object of their visit, or appearing to have any ostensible business to transact, and most of whom seemed desirous of avoiding observation.

DEPOSITION OF

MRS. LUCINDA MORGAN,

Concerning the Abduction of Her Husband and the Masonic Villainy Connected Therewith, Made Eleven Days after His Abduction.

NOTE—The following **"deposition,"** made by Mrs. Morgan eleven days after the abduction of her husband, will have an unusual interest at this time, when so many have been reading Morgan's "ILLUSTRATIONS OF MASONRY."

The book will assume a greater value when we see what anguish and trouble came to Morgan's frail, young wife through the application of the principles of Masonry "(divine?)." PUBLISHERS CYNOSURE EDITION.

GENESEE COUNTY, } ss: } LUCINDA MORGAN, aged twenty-three, the wife of William Morgan of Batavia, in said county, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith—that on Monday last, about or a short time before sunrise, her said husband left his house, and went into the street of the village, that finding he did not come home to his breakfast as usual, she made enquiries for him, and was told that he had been forcibly taken away by six men, and put into a carriage and taken to Canandaigua. That during the whole of Monday she remained in ignorance of which way he had been taken, or who had taken him, excepting by loose information, that an officer from Canandaigua had taken him. That on Tuesday morning soon after breakfast she sent for William R. Thompson, the Sheriff, and requested to know of him if he knew on what pretext her husband had been taken away. Said Thompson told her he understood he had been taken under a charge of having stolen a shirt and cravat, and that he presumed it was merely a pretext to get him away, or carry him away; that thereupon this deponent asked him if he thought Mr. Morgan could be got back, or brought back, if she gave up to the Masons the papers she had in possession: said Thompson answered that he thought it was very likely that Mr. Morgan would be brought back if she would give them up, but he would not obligate himself or undertake to say that he should be brought back. That thereupon said Thompson proposed that this deponent should go to Canandaigua and take the papers, and give them to Morgan, or to them, or give them up—and deponent agreed to go and take the papers accordingly.

Thompson then asked this deponent if there was any person or friend whom she would like to have go with her. She mentioned Mr. Gibbs, (meaning Horace Gibbs,) and asked if it would do for him to go; said Thompson said it would not do for him to go, as he was not a Mason, and added it would not do for any person to carry her there but a Mason. She asked him twice if Mr. Gibbs was not a Mason, and he said he was not, and then asked deponent if she was acquainted with Mr. Follett: deponent said she was not. Thompson said he was a nice man, and a gentleman with whom she could safely trust herself. Said Thompson departed, and soon returned and told deponent that Mr. Follett was not willing to go, unless she would let him (Follett) and Mr. Ketchum see the papers; he did not want to go on a Tom fool's errand. This deponent then objected to these papers being seen by them—Thompson then said it was useless; he would do no more, and he could not send her out there unless they could see the papers. Deponent then, with great reluctance, finally consented to let them see the papers if they would take her to see her husband. This second visit lasted about twenty minutes, during which time Thompson urged deponent to let the papers be seen. Deponent told him she was afraid they would take the papers away from her, if she let them see them. Thompson said they would not. She offered to let Mr. Thompson see the papers. He said that would not answer; they would not take his word. Thompson then told her he would go to Humphrey's and stay until she had got the papers, and she must then make a sign to him when she was ready. Accordingly, a short time afterwards she made a sign to Mr. Thompson, then standing on Humphrey's stoop, and immediately after, he, with Mr. Follett and Mr. Ketchum, came to her apartment. When Thompson introduced Follett and Ketchum, and said they had come to see the papers, which this deponent then handed to them. They all looked at them a short time; and Thompson then asked her if she was ready to go ,saying Mr. Follett was ready to take her. Follett then said he would go home with the papers and look them over, and told Ketchum to stop for him at his gate. Accordingly, about four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, deponent started with said Follett and Ketchum, in a small wagon, and proceeded to Stafford, where they stopped at a house, where she was conducted into a back room, into which Follett and Ketchum came, and were joined by one Daniel Johns, and by James Ganson; all of whom immediately proceeded to examine the papers with much

earnestness, and held much low conversation with themselves in under voices. Ganson appeared to speak the most. One of them asked Johns if those were the papers that were in the office when he was there. Johns answered that there was one degree back, and then took a piece of paper, and folded it up, and said the papers that were back were folded so. They then held considerable more conversation in voices too low to be heard. Follett then turned to deponent and said he did not see that he could go with her; that Mr. Ketchum was going to Rochester, and would be willing to take her to Canandaigua to see Mr. Morgan; said he was not much acquainted with him (Ketchum), but took him to be a gentleman; and Ketchum then said he called himself a gentleman, and she need not be afraid to trust herself with him. Ketchum then took the papers and tied them up in his pocket handkerchief, and took them with him into the wagon in which they rode. Johns then got into the wagon and rode to Le Roy, where he got out, and bade Ketchum good bye, saying, 'I hope I shall see you day after to-morrow.' They then proceeded to Avon, and staid all night. The next day they again started for Canandaigua, where Ketchum put the papers into this deponent's trunk. They arrived at Canandaigua about twelve at noon, and stopped at a tavern at the corner of the main street. After being there some time, this deponent asked Ketchum if he had heard of Mr. Morgan. Ketchum said he had not; that the Masons would not talk to him; he could not see them; they seemed jealous of him; thought him a friend of Morgan, and were afraid he had come to get him away from that place. Then he asked her where the papers were; he took them, and said he would go and make further inquiries for Mr. Morgan; and if he could find him, or where he was, or where they had taken him, he would let her know all he could find out. This was about dinner time. He returned again a short time before night, and told her he had heard Mr. Morgan had been there; had been tried for stealing a shirt, and cleared, and had been put in jail for a debt of two dollars; and that Tuesday night a man had come from Pennsylvania, who said he had a warrant against him for a debt he owed there; that he, the man, had paid the two dollars, and taken him away in a private carriage on Tuesday night, and that he had no doubt he was gone; and asked this deponent when she would go home again. The deponent then expressed her anxiety to return speedily, on account of having left her child of two years old, and having with

her a baby of two months old. Ketchum then went out, as he said, to take a passage in the stage, and returned after candle-light. This deponent was then walking the room in great distress, and in tears. She asked him if he could hear nothing of Mr. Morgan. He then seemed to pity deponent, and told her not to be uneasy, and after looking at her a short time, told her to come and sit down by him, and asked her if she would feel any better if he told her what he knew. Being answered yes, he then said that Mr. Morgan would not be killed; that he would be kept concealed until they could get the rest of the papers. She asked him what papers were back. He said there were some sheets of the Mark Master's Degree back; and they wanted also to see the printed sheets that Miller had printed on the three degrees. He then said he wanted to take the papers which he had received from this deponent to Rochester, and he thought through the means of them he could find where Mr. Morgan was; it was a secret where he was. Said he had paid her passage, and gave her two dollars to bear her expenses home. He then wrote his name with a pencil on a scrap of paper, hereto annexed, as follows: 'George Ketchum, Rochester, and promised to write to her if he could hear of Mr. Morgan. He then told her if she would, by any means, get hold of the papers that Miller had, or find out where they were deposited, so that he could get hold of them, he would give her twenty-five dollars out of his own pocket, and he had no doubt the lodge would give her one hundred if she could get what Miller had now. Deponent told him she would not try to get the papers that Miller had, and would take no money, and would not let him have the papers she had delivered to him, but on condition he would try and find out where Mr. Morgan was, and let her see him. He then repeated his promise to try and find out, and said he would write to her as soon as he got to Rochester, and urged her to write to him immediately on her return, and let him know about the papers, and what the people were doing generally at Batavia, and whether they were making a great rumpus about Mr. Morgan. Deponent then expressed her fears that if she did give him any information about the papers, he would not keep his promise about letting her see him, but would keep him concealed until they had got all the papers, and finally kill him. Ketchum then said, 'I promise before my God that I will not deceive you, but will do all I can to find out where he is, and let you see him. I have no doubt when I get back to Rochester, I can find out more, and I think I can find out where he is.'

He then again urged her to find out where the papers were and let him know. In the course of his conversation, he said, 'that if Mr. Morgan had managed rightly, he could have made a million of dollars if the work had been published.' Ketchum then departed for Rochester, leaving this deponent at the tavern; she, the same day, started for Batavia. The papers taken away by the said Ketchum were numerous, and formed a very large bundle; they were written in the handwriting of her husband excepting a few which were written by a person who sometimes assisted her husband by copying or taking down as he dictated to him. The deponent further says she has no knowledge of the place where her husband now is, or what is his situation, and feels the most anxious fears for his life; that she was born in Virginia, and is a stranger without intimate friends or relations in this county, and is left with two infant children, without any money, except what is left of that given to her by said Ketchum, and has no property, or any means of supporting herself and children, her constitution being very feeble, and her health being bad most of the time.

LUCINDA MORGAN.

"Sworn the twenty-second day of September, 1826, before me.

DANIEL H. CHANDLER, J. P."

About the middle of August, a man calling himself Daniel Johns suddenly appeared in Batavia and took up his lodging at one of the public houses; he soon proposed associating himself with Miller in the publication of Morgan's book, and offered to advance any sum of money that might be wanted; he was accepted and received into their confidence.

His history and the object of his visit were thus detailed by James Ganson of Le Roy, formerly a member of the Legislature from the county of Genesee, and a Knight Templar, to a person whose affidavit of that statement is now in our possession. That he was sent for from thirty miles beyond Kingston, to cheat or take in Miller, that he was a Knight Templar and a cunning fellow, and had answered the purpose he was sent to accomplish, for he had got away part of the papers and cut the work into two parts, so that Miller could not go on with it.

On the 25th day of July, 1826, Morgan was committed to the custody of the Sheriff of the county of Genesee, at the suit of Nathan Follett, and gave bail for the jail limits. He had been sued sometime before in the supreme court

for a considerable debt due to a gentleman of Rochester, and two of his then friends had become his special bail, to-wit: Nahum Loring and Orange Allen. During the month of August his family and himself boarded at Mr. Stewart's, in the crowded part of the village, but for the purpose of security and to avoid interruption, he himself spent most of the time in the upper room of Mr. John David's house, some distance from his lodgings and separated by the Tonewanda creek from the business part of the town. On the 19th of August, 1826, Johnson Goodwill, Kelsey Stone, and John Wilson, residents of the village, but holding no official station, accompanied by one Daniel H. Dana, a constable, residing at Pembroke about fourteen miles distant from the village of Batavia, went together to David's house. They first enquired for David and Towsley, the two men who were heads of the two families that occupied the house,and being told they were not at home, without asking for Morgan, or giving any previous notice to the families, they rushed at once up the stairway into the room where he was writing, seized his person and all the papers which he was then busied in arranging for the press, and took him at once to the county jail, without allowing him time or opportunity to procure other bail.

We pretend not to state how far the sheriff was a party in this transaction. He was observed to be in the company of the four, and went with them to the bridge, where he appeared to stay on the look-out until they returned with Morgan, when he accompanied them to the jail. Morgan remained in close confinement from Saturday afternoon until Monday morning, during which time he received numerous visits from the persons who had interested themselves in the suppression of the book. As soon as Morgan's imprisonment was known to his friends, which was not more than an hour after his capture, three of them made diligent search for the sheriff in all the usual places of his resort, for the purpose of offering themselves as bail for him. They went three times to his dwelling house without being able to see him; they enquired at the jail and sheriff's office for the jailer; neither sheriff or jailer was to be found until after twelve o'clock at night, when of course it was too late to procure his release. until Monday morning. On the evening of the same Saturday about sunset, the same Johnson Goodwill and Daniel H. Dana, with Thomas McCully repaired to the dwelling house of Mr. Stewart, where Morgan boarded. They alleged, and we presume that they had an execution,

in which McCully was plaintiff and Morgan defendant. McCully enquired of Mrs. Morgan whether Morgan had any property; who answered, "You know we have none, we have got nothing since we came from your house." To a similar enquiry addressed to Miss Stewart, she answered, "she knew of none, but that they lodged in an upper chamber." Goodwill and Dana passed into the chamber, leaving McCully below, and proceeded to rummage, without permission or ceremony, among the trunks, boxes, drawers and every other place where it was probable that papers could be found. They examined such letters as they found, and seized a small trunk of Morgan's which had a few papers in it, saying they would examine them and if they were of consequence to Morgan they would return them. While Goodwill and Dana were thus employed above stairs, McCully observed to Miss Stewart, who remained with him below, "that he should like to find property to satisfy his execution, but that was not his principal object, he did not care so much about that as he did to get some papers belonging to Morgan." One of the chests or trunks was found locked. It belonged to a lodger in the house. His name was mentioned and McCully declared "he did not wish to examine that as he was a Royal Arch Mason." After remaining in the house about half an hour they departed, and as they were leaving the house McCully or Goodwill said to Mrs. Morgan, "We have just conducted your husband to jail and shall keep him there until we find his papers." That numerous individuals in different and distant parts of our country took a deep interest in the suppression of the book, we are not at liberty to doubt in the slightest degree; and the intenseness of their anxiety betrayed them in very many instances into the avowal of intentions and feelings, which manifested how little they were disposed to regard the laws of the land and the lives of their fellow citizens, if the violation of the first and the destruction of the second should become necessary to effect that object. The following declarations by prominent Freemasons in different parts of the country fully warrant our conclusions:

At Buffalo, a man, high in office, declared that he was astonished that Miller had been permitted to go so far in printing the book; and that if Morgan should come there, there were twenty men who would take his life in less than half an hour.

In Attica, a former member of the Legislature declared as follows: "If they are publishing the true secrets of Masonry, I should not think the lives of half a dozen such

men as Morgan and Miller of any consequence in suppressing the work."

In Leroy, a physician, formerly a sheriff of the county, declared at a public table, "That the book should be suppressed, if it cost every one of them their lives."

In Batavia, a person holding a respectable office declared to another office—"That Miller's office would not stand there long."

A Justice of the Peace in Le Roy said—"If he could catch Morgan on the bridge in the night he would find the bottom of that mill-pond."

A Judge of the County Court of Genesee said—"That whatever Morgan's fate might have been, he deserved it—he had forfeited his life."

A High Priest of the order at Le Roy said—"That Morgan deserved death—he hoped he had received it—a common death was too good for him."

A Justice of the Peace in Middlebury, a sober, respectable man, said publicly—"That a man had a right to pledge his life," and then observed to those who answered him—"What can you do? what can a rat do with a lion? who are your judges? who are your sheriffs? and who will be your jurymen?"

After Morgan was taken away, the sheriff of the county of Genesee avowed to Mrs. Morgan, his belief that the real object of taking him away was to coerce the surrender of his papers, and he opened a negotiation with her, by the aid of Nathan Follett and George Ketchum, for the restoration of her husband upon condition of surrendering his papers to the Masons, and if any doubts could have existed in our minds of the anxiety to suppress this work, and the determination to effect it at all hazards, they would have been set at rest by the following affidavits of Nicholas G. Chesebro and Edward Sawyer, read before the Court which sentenced them:

ONTARIO OYER AND TERMINER.

NICHOLAS G. CHESEBRO, Edward Sawyer, Loton Lawson, John Sheldon *ads.* The People.

Nicholas G. Chesebro, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that since the finding of the indictment in the above entitled cause, and in the course of last week, this deponent has been served with a *capias ad respondendum*, issued out of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, at the suit of William Morgan, for assault and battery and false imprisonment, to the damage of the said William Morgan of ten thousand dollars, and this deponent has been held to

bail in virtue of said writ, and an allowance of bail thereon endorsed for fifteen hundred dollars—that this deponent doth verily believe that the said *capias* was issued against this deponent as the commencement of a suit by said William Morgan against this deponent for his private damages, sustained by reason of the facts disclosed in the indictment in the above entitled cause—and this deponent further saith, that he saw the said William Morgan in the office of J. Chipman, Esq., a justice of the peace, in the village of Canandaigua, on the evening of the 11th of September last, during his examination before the said justice, and that he has not seen him since that time:—this deponent knew that it was intended to release the said Morgan from jail, and was informed, and verily believed that the said Morgan had consented to go away; and that the only object of this deponent in assisting to get said Morgan out of jail was to keep him from falling into the hands, or under the influence of one David C. Miller, of Batavia; that he, this deponent, had been informed, and believed that said William Morgan was compiling a book on the subject of Masonry, at the instigation, or with the concurrence of said Miller, who was to print the same with a view to pecuniary profit; in which book the said Morgan pretended to disclose secrets which he averred that he had most solemnly engaged never to reveal—that deeming such publication calculated to degrade the institution of Masonry, and to bring disgrace on the members thereof, this deponent was desirous to remove the said Morgan to some place beyond the reach of the said Miller, where his friends and acquaintance might endeavor to convince him of the impropriety of his conduct, and prevent the consequence before mentioned—that this deponent was not concerned, directly or indirectly, in using any force in the removal of the said Morgan from the said jail, and that he has had no concern whatever in any transactions concerning the said Morgan since that time—that all he knows of said removal is, that he has been informed that the said Morgan was carried into the county of Monroe, and that this deponent does not know where said Morgan now is; and this deponent further saith, that he is somewhat in debt, has but little property, a family to provide for, and feels in common with his fellow-citizens the pressure of the times—and further saith not.

N. G. CHESEBRO.

Sworn this fifth day of January, 1827, before me.

RALPH LESTER, Clerk of Ontario County.

Ontario County ss. EDWARD SAWYER, of Canandaigua, one the above named defendants, being

duly sworn, deposes and says, that he never, to his knowledge, saw William Morgan, mentioned in the indictment in this cause, until the evening of the eleventh day of September last past, when he saw him at the office of Jeffrey Chipman, Esq., in the village of Canandiagua, under examination on a complaint against him, as this deponent was informed, for larceny. And this deponent further says, that he had no knowledge or intimation in any manner whatever, that any person or persons were to go for the said Morgan, or that they had gone for the said Morgan, to bring him to Canandaigua, until he was informed that he was at the office of the said Chipman, on the said examination. And this deponent further says, that he took no part, either directly or indirectly, in the said examination, or in any subsequent proceedings, by which the said Morgan was committed, as this deponent has been informed, to the jail of Ontario county. And this deponent further says, that he had no knowledge or intimation of any design or intention to liberate or remove the said Morgan from the said jail, in any manner, whatever, until the evening of the twelfth day of September last, when Loton Lawson met this deponent in the street, near the dwelling of this deponent, and informed this deponent that Morgan had agreed to go away with him and that he was about to be discharged from the jail, and would voluntarily leave the place with the said Lawson; and some time after that, in the course of the same evening, the said Lawson called on this deponent and informed him that he had been to the jail, and that Mr. Hall, the jailer, was not at home and that Mrs. Hall was not acquainted with him, Lawson, and was not willing to let Morgan go on his application; that he had asked her if she would discharge him provided this deponent would come to the jail and say it was proper, and that she said on that condition she would let him go, and the said Lawson requested this deponent to go to the jail for that purpose; and this deponent believing the statement of the said Lawson to be true, did accompany him to the jail for the purpose above expressed, and for no other,—and at the jail stated to Mrs. Hall that in his opinion there would be no harm in discharging Morgan provided the debt for which he was committed was paid. And this deponent further says, that he verily believed that the said Morgan was voluntarily going away with Lawson, and this deponent had no knowledge or intimation of any design or intention on the part of any one to use any force or violence in carrying away Morgan, nor should this deponent have gone to the jail aforesaid except on the solicitation above mentioned. And this deponent further says, that when Morgan came to the outer door of the jail, and had descended the steps, to the great surprise of this deponent, he, Morgan, as appeared by his exclamations, made resistance, and was taken down the street east from the jail, but what kind of resistance he made, or what force was used to compel him to go. this deponent does not know, for he was not near enough to Morgan at any time after he came out of the jail to see or know what was done to him; but this deponent freely, and without any reserve, acknowledges that he was near enough to hear the noise, and might have interfered to endeavor to prevent any abuse of Morgan, and that he did follow at a distance of some rods behind Morgan and the persons with him until the carriage came up, and he, Morgan, and the persons with him, got into the carriage; and this deponent then verily believed, and still does believe, that Morgan got into the carriage without any force whatever; and this deponent was at no time nearer than within several rods of Morgan on that evening before he got into the carriage. And this deponent further says, that this omission to interfere and assist Morgan was the first and only act or omission of this deponent in which he is conscious of having been guilty of any criminal or improper conduct, or participation in the matters contained in the indictment in this case; and this deponent says, that he was taken wholly by surprise, and had no time for reflection, that he did not expect, and had no reason to expect, any such occurrence, and he did sincerely and deeply regret that he had been guilty of any such improper conduct as soon as he saw what had been done, and he still does with deep and unfeigned regret acknowledge and lament the part which he took in said transaction. And this deponent further says, that at the time aforesaid he understood and believed that Morgan was voluntarily going away with Lawson to some place in this or the adjoining county, but to what place he did not know, for the purpose of being out of the reach and influence of David C. Miller, who, as this deponent was informed, was engaged with said Morgan in publishing a book, which, as this deponent considered, would be calculated to bring the institution of Masonry into disrepute, by professing to reveal secrets which he was bound by solemn obligations not to disclose; and this deponent was desirous to prevent the publican of such book, provided Morgan could be persuaded to keep out of the way of said Miller, and not to permit himself to be influenced by him

or his friends; and it was with this view, and no other, that this deponent was desirous to have Morgan depart with Lawson. And this deponent further says, that he has never seen Morgan since he got into the carriage as aforesaid, nor does he know where he is at present, nor has he known anything of him since the time he so got into the carriage. And this deponent further says, that in going down the street, after Morgan and those with him had passed from the jail, he met a man, who was, as he supposed, a Mr. Osborn, who asked this deponent what was the matter, to which this deponent replied, that a man had been released from jail, and he believed they had another precept for him, or words to that effect; and this deponent also picked up a hat which he found in the street there. And this deponent further says, that the foregoing is a true and impartial account of all the participation of this deponent in the matters contained in said indictment, and of the motives which influenced him in the same, according to the best of his knowledge and belief.

And this deponent further says, that an action of assault and battery and false imprisonment has been commenced in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, in the name of William Morgan, plaintiff, against this deponent, and this deponent has been arrested on a capias issued in the name, in which the damages are laid at ten thousand dollars, and on which this deponent is held to bail in the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, by order of Judge Birdsall.

And this deponent further says, that he has a family of four children, and is in moderate circumstances as to property, and the situation of his pecuniary affairs is such as to require his constant and unremitted attention to business to meet the engagements and responsibilities into which he has entered.

And this deponent further says, that he never knew, nor has he any reason to believe, that the said John Sheldon, the above named defendant, had any part or concern whatever, either directly or indirectly, in any of the transactions above referred to, and this deponent has been well acquainted with the said John Sheldon for several years. And further this deponent says not.

EDWARD SAWYER.

Sworn and subscribed, this sixth day of January, A. D. 1827, before me,

RALPH LESTER, Clerk of Ontario County.

On the eighth day of September, 1826, athan Follett, an active member of the Masonic fraternity, residing at Batavia, desired James Ganson, who then kept a tavern at the village of Stafford, six miles east of Batavia, to prepare a cold supper or refreshments for between forty and fifty men, who he said would be there that night. They accordingly assembled, and were headed or commanded by a Col. Edward Sawyer, residing at Canandaigua. From the affidavit of Green and other information received, it appears that this mob, which was to act under the directions of Sawyer, was to have been composed of persons from several different and distant places, and some of them even from Upper Canada. At a late hour of the night the conspirators, conducted by Sawyer, departed from Ganson's, and proceeded to Batavia, for the purpose, as was avowed, of procuring the manuscript papers, and printed sheets, and suppressing the publication of Morgan's book, by breaking into the printing office, and, if necessary to effect their object, carry off Morgan and Miller. What circumstances or occurrences deterred them from proceeding to extremities, are not known, further than have been derived from their own statements since, and the following affidavit of Green and Mann.

State of New York, } THOMAS G. GREEN, late of
Genesee County, ss: } the town of Henrietta, in the county of Monroe, and State aforesaid, carpenter, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that during the summer and until November in the fall of the year 1826, this deponent resided in the village of Buffalo. Some time between the twentieth day of August and the seventh day of September last, he, this deponent, was requested by Richard Howard, of Buffalo, aforesaid, to attend the lodge of Freemasons in the place, but Howard did not state to this deponent for what purpose the lodge was requested to meet; said there would be but a few there. In the evening this deponent started to go to the lodge, and on his way fell in with said Howard, and went to the lodge with him. After the lodge was organized, and had proceeded to business, it being then understood that William Morgan and David C. Miller, of Batavia, were about to publish at that place a book, purporting to be a disclosure of Masonic secrets. This deponent, was in the chair and presided for the time. Howard proposed that something should be done to prevent the publication of said book. B. Wilcox, of Buffalo, who was present, opposed the use of any rash or violent measures for that purpose. Wilcox wished to know what measures it was intended should be

adopted. Howard proposed that he and one other person, not now recollected by this deponent, should be a committee to attend to the business, and that they should be left to such measures as they should think proper, so that the book should be suppressed. Wilcox proposed that they should be restricted from the use of any violent measures, and it was so concluded at that time that no rash or violent measures should be used to suppress the book.

A short time afterwards Howard requested that this deponent should go to the lodge room with him that evening; that a few were to meet there. In the evening this deponent started to go to the lodge room, and on the way fell in with Howard, but did not go to the lodge room. They walked together as far as the Franklin House, thence to the terrace back of the village, where Howard and this deponent had the following conversation: Howard asked this deponent if he was willing to aid him in suppressing the book above alluded to. This deponent said he was willing to assist as far as was reasonable and proper, or according to what was proposed by Wilcox. Howard said he wanted a decisive answer one way or the other—he wanted to know whether he, this deponent, was for them, the Masons, as this deponent supposed, or against them. This deponent said he was for them, and was willing to aid in suppressing the book if it was to promote the interests of the Masonic institution, and asked Howard what plan he intended to pursue. Howard said they intended to go to Batavia and get the papers, which this deponent understood to mean the manuscript papers of the book, and they were to get them peaceably if they could, if not, by force; and if they could not get them without they would take Morgan and Miller and carry them off too. This deponent finally consented to join the party, and go to Batavia, for the purpose of getting the papers as aforesaid. The time for this expedition was not agreed upon at this time, but Howard afterwards informed this deponent that it was arranged to be in Batavia for the above purpose on the Friday evening following, being the eighth day of September last. This deponent does not recollect how many were going from Buffalo. This deponent accordingly got into the stage at Buffalo on Thursday evening, the seventh of September, for Batavia, and arrived in Batavia on Friday morning. During the day this deponent remained in and about Batavia, but conversed with none on the subject of his being at that place except James B. Towsley, to whom

he communicated the plan of attacking Miller's office. In the early part of the evening this deponent was informed that Towsley had told George W. Harris of the contemplated attack upon Miller's office, and that this deponent was the author of this information. This threw many obstructions in the way of the expedition, and was a principal cause of its total failure, and for which Howard blamed this deponent. In the evening a number of men were assembled in the village of Batavia—how many this deponent cannot say—there might have been forty or fifty, and perhaps more, but they were mostly strangers to this deponent; nor did he know where they came from. This deponent understood from some of them that it was expected that there would have been twenty-five from Fort George and its vicinity, but, as he understood, they did not come. Eight or ten were put under the immediate direction of this deponent, and the remainder were in different parts of the village, and directed by different persons. The whole party did not get into the village till nearly two o'clock in the morning of Saturday, and they remained about two hours, and till the western stage came in, when the whole company dispersed in different directions. This was about four o'clock in the morning. During the time they were in the village no attack was made upon Miller's office. It was understood that Miller and Morgan, in consequence of the information communicated to them by way of Towsley, had been alarmed, and were on the watch, which caused some consultation and consequent delay until the stage came in. When the party dispersed, this deponent made his best way to Buffalo—went west to the brick tavern about fourteen miles, thence south to what is called the south Pembroke road, and pursued his way to Monroe's tavern, about five miles from Buffalo; at this place this deponent saw Col. Joseph Shaw, who spoke to this deponent, and asked him what he was doing there. This deponent then took Shaw one side, and requested that he would not call him, this deponent, by name again, or mention to any one that he had seen him at that place, for he, this deponent, had been in a bad scrape, and wished him not to speak of it. Shaw asked this deponent what it was, but this deponent refused to tell him, but said he would at some future time, and that Shaw would hear about it. From this place this deponent went to Buffalo, where he arrived the same evening. And this deponent further saith—that he has never been personally concerned otherwise than above stated in any measures to suppress the publication of the

book, or for the carrying away or disposing of Morgan; and further saith not. THOMAS G. GREEN.

Subscribed and sworn to, this sixteenth day of July, 1827, before me,

C. CARPENTER, one of the Justices of the Peace, in and for Genesee County.

County of Genesee, } JOHN MANN, of Buffalo, *ss:* } blacksmith, by trade, deposeth and saith, that in the latter part of August last, or early in September, and very shortly before he heard that an attempt had been made to burn the printing office of David C. Miller, at Batavia, he was riding with one Richard Howard, of Buffalo, a book-binder, who then worked with Mr. Haskins; and in the course of the ride he, said Howard, asked deponent to purchase or procure a keg of spirits of turpentine, (as he thinks), saying he wanted to switch Miller's office with it, avowing at the same time his object to be to destroy the building for the purpose of suppressing a publication, which he said Morgan and Miller were about making, relating to Freemasonry. This deponent declined to assist in the act, intimating to him (as he believes) that he had no money to do it with. After he heard that such attempt had been made on the office of Miller, said Howard told this deponent that he had, with others, who aided and assisted him, attempted to burn said office—that he had called at a store west of Batavia, and bought a broom or brush to spread the turpentine with, and with his dark lantern had set fire to it; that the fire was lighted up, and he ran off; that some person ran after him, and he supposed was about to overtake him, when he turned and dashed his dark lantern into his face, which stopped the pursuit; that upon reflection since he concluded that it was a friend who ran after him, but he never found out. He believed then, and still does believe, that said Howard's object was to implicate him in the transaction. JOHN MANN.

Sworn the twenty-first day of February, 1827, before me,

WM. H. TISDALE, First Judge of Genesee.

They received information, it is supposed, of the fact that Miller knew of their intention, and had prepared to defend the office with fire-arms, and of course concluded that their project could not be carried into effect without the risk and probable loss of some of their lives; and however anxious to prevent the disclosure of the secrets of Masonry, they seem to have been unwilling to sacrifice their limbs or lives in its service. At day-dawn they

separated, and retreated from the village without having effected anything. Part of them re-assembled at Ganson's house, in Stafford, where Sawyer was branded as a coward for not effecting the object for which he had started.

Miller occupied, as printing offices, the second story of two wooden buildings in the compact part of the village of Batavia, nearly all of which consists of wooden buildings—the two offices were separated by an alley about twelve feet wide. A family of ten persons occupied the lower part of one of the buildings, and Miller's assistants, six in number, always slept in the upper rooms. On the night of Sunday, the 10th of September, 1826, the inhabitants of the village were alarmed by the cry of fire, which proceeded from these offices, but was soon extinguished. The fire was first discovered by bright flames bursting from under the outside stairways leading into the printing offices. On examination it was evident that the attempt had been made wih very minute preparations. Remains of straw, and cotton balls saturated with spirits of turpentine were found under the stairs; a short brush was found, which had evidently been dipped in turpentine; and the sidings of the houses were smeared with that liquid. A short distance from the building a dark lantern was found. It will be manifest to every person, who sees the situation of the offices, and adjacent buildings, that if the fire had gotten much headway, a considerable portion of the village would have been consumed.

In March, 1827, the Committee, on the affidavit of John Mann, (to which the reader has been referred) obtained a warrant for the apprehension of Richard Howard, as the incendiary, and despatched a messenger to Buffalo for the purpose of arresting him. That no step should be taken without due caution, they requested a friend in Buffalo to examine into the affair, and instructed him that if satisfactory proof existed that Howard was at Buffalo on Monday morning, early, engaged in his usual occupations, he was authorized to withhold the precept. The friend to whom they had written chose to call in to his aid four others, who, after much reflection, say they "felt it to be right to advise the officers not to arrest Howard, and had taken their measures with such prudence, as they thought would prevent all knowledge of the complaint from coming to his ears—that they had felt the more confidence in that course, from the belief that Howard would not leave the place, but would be found to answer the charge,

if such proof should thereafter be produced as should warrant the pursuit of criminal proceedings against him." A few days after receiving the letter of these gentlemen, the committee obtained satisfactory proof that about the time the attemp t was made Howard had been at Batavia, in secret consultation with a member of the fraternity. A second officer was despatched with positive directions to arrest him for examination. But the officer, on his arrival at Buffalo, was informed by one of the gentlemen who had written the letter, that the night after its date (March 9th,) Howard had absconded, though they could not ascertain by what means he had been alarmed. He has never since been heard of by any member of the committee. The secrecy and celerity of his departure—the active part he took in the conspiracy—and the facts detailed in the second affidavit of John Mann—will leave not much doubt on the minds of the readers that he feared an arrest on a much higher charge than that of attempting to set fire to the printing offices of Miller, as the following depositions will show:

Genesee County, } JOHN MANN, being sworn,
ss: } deposeth and saith—that about the time that he heard and understood that William Morgan had been taken away from Batavia, he had a conversation with Richard Howard, of Buffalo, book-binder, (who works, or did work, with Mr. Haskins), who then informed this deponent that Morgan was confined in Fort Niagara—and he believes, in the same conversation with said Howard, he informed him that five persons had drawn lots to see who it would fall upon to execute the laws of Masonry upon Morgan; that the lot fell upon him. He seemed much distressed, and clasped his hands together, and exclaimed, My God! must it be done! or some words to that effect. He appeared to be under an impression that his Masonic obligations placed him under a necessity of submitting to do an act which seemed abhorrent to his natural feelings. In subsequent conversations said Howard gave this deponent to understand that the execution had been performed but said nothing more as to his own agency in the transaction. This deponent further saith, that until within a few days past his mind has been very unsettled as to the course which he ought to have pursued in relation to the communications so made to him; and he has been operated upon in some degree by fears for his personal safety; and doubts as to the extent of his obligations to observe secrecy in respect to the statements so communicated to him; that few days

ago he held a consultation with a friend, as to the general duties of a person so situated, and he at last determined to communicate the facts to some person who might feel bound to act upon them as public good should seem to require.

JOHN MANN.

Sworn the twenty-first day of February, 1827, before me,
WM. H. TISDALE, First Judge of Genesee.

On Sunday morning, the tenth day of September, 1826, Nicholas G. Chesebro, of the village of Canandaigua, a hatter by trade and Master of the Masonic lodge in that place, and one of the coroners of Ontario county, applied for and obtained from Jeffrey Chipman, a Justice of the Peace, a warrant for the apprehension of William Morgan on a charge of stealing a shirt and cravat, in May previous, from an innkeeper named Kingsley, who afterwards deposed that he had no intention of entering a complaint against Morgan until he was prompted to it by Chesebro and his associates. Having obtained the warrant, which was directed to him as coroner, he called upon Holloway Hayward, a constable, who with Chesebro, Henry Howard, a merchant of Canandaigua, Harris Seymour, Moses Roberts, and one Joseph Scofield, took their departure from Canandaigua on the morning of the same day, in an extra stage hired for the occasion by Chesebro.

At Avon the party were joined by Asa Nowlen, an innkeeper; at Calendonia, by John Butterfield, a store-keeper, and at Le Roy by Ella G. Smith, all of whom, as Hayward has since deposed, seemed to know that he had a warrant against Morgan. The party proceeded to the village of Stafford, where they stopped to take supper at a public house then kept by James Ganson. Immediately after their arrival at Stafford, on Sunday evening, Samuel S. Butler, a physician residing there, was introduced to some of the party, and informed that they or the officer had a warrant for Morgan, and he was requested to mention that circumstance to Nathan Follett and William Seaver, then Master of the Batavia Lodge, both residents of Batavia village, for which he immediately started. The party having finished their supper were now joined by Ganson and started for Batavia. About two miles from that place they were met by Doct. Butler, who had some conversation in a low voice with Ganson, and communicated to him the answer of Follett, which was, that they should *not come on.* Some of the party said they would proceed, they had come for the purpose and would go on.

They concluded, however, that it was not advisable to proceed in the carriage, and most of the party left it about a mile and a half east of the village and proceeded on foot to Batavia, and the remainder returned with the carriage. The next morning, early, Morgan was arrested and taken to the public house where the party had slept. An extra stage was procured for the return of the party, in which they left the village with Morgan. Just as they were about to start, Miller came up and insisted that Morgan should not be taken away, as he was in custody of the sheriff of the county for debt, and he, Miller, was one of his bail. Miller, however, was immediately pushed aside by Danolds, the tavern-keeper, who closed the door, and Chesebro having seated himself on the outside with the driver urged him to drive fast until he should get out of the county. The driver became uneasy and stopped about 80 rods from Danolds', refusing to proceed. He was, however, persuaded to go as far as Stafford, where he was assured Ganson would become his surety against all responsibility; and on his arriving at Stafford, Ganson accordingly gave him such assurances as induced him to proceed. At Le Roy, Hayward, who held the process, offered, as he afterwards said, to take Morgan before the justice of the peace, who had endorsed the warrant, that he might give bail if he chose. No such offer was made to him in Batavia, where he might have found bail, and there was no reason to suppose that he could have friends in Le Roy to whom he could apply in such an emergency. He accordingly declined, saying that when he got to Canandaigua he could convince Mr. Kingsley, the apparent prosecutor, that he did not intend to steal the shirt and cravat. The party arrived at Canandaigua, fifty miles east of Batavia, about sunset, and Morgan was examined by the magistrate. Loton Lawson appeared as a witness on his behalf, and made such statements as induced the discharge of Morgan. To have procured his imprisonment for larceny, would of course have defeated the real object of the conspirators, because his person would have been out of their control. As soon as Morgan was thus discharged from arrest under the criminal process, Chesebro produced a claim against him for a debt of two dollars, due to one Aaron Ackley, an inn-keeper in Canandaigua, with an authority to collect the debt on his own account. Morgan admitted the debt, confessed judgment, and seemingly aware of the determination to detain him, pulled off his coat, and desired the constable to levy on it, or take it as security for the debt. Hayward, the constable, refused to take it, and conducted

Morgan to jail, where he was left about ten o'clock in the evening.

ATTEMPT TO CARRY OFF DAVID C. MILLER,

PUBLISHER OF THE "ILLUSTRATIONS OF MASONRY".

On Tuesday, the 12th day of September, about noon, a crowd of men suddenly appeared in the villae of Batavia, nearly all of whom carried with them clubs or sticks newly cut, and resembling one another, and to all appearance provided for the occasion. The crowd assembled themselves at the house of Danolds, an inn-keeper. To the oldest inhabitants of the village, almost all of them were strangers, and to this day the names of very few have been distinctly ascertained by us, although the whole number thus equipped were sixty or seventy. They were manifestly selected for the occasion, because their names and persons were not known to the inhabitants of the village generally. No motive for their sudden appearance was assigned. Immediately after this assemblage, *Jesse French*, one of the constables of the county, repaired to Miller's printing office, and in a rude and violent manner arrested him, alleging that he had a criminal process, or a process in behalf of the people. After detaining him in a room at Danold's tavern about two hours, they put him into an open wagon. Seven men exclusive of the driver, all armed with clubs, took their seats in the wagon, all of whom were unknown to him. French, the constable, having mounted his horse, the whole mob proceeded to Stafford, a village about six miles east from Batavia. On arriving there Miller was seized by two men and conducted to a room in the third story of a stone building, ordinarily used as a Masonic lodge room. In this room he was guarded by five men, who said they were acting as assistants to French, and under his orders. While thus secluded and guarded, his counsel with four or five of his friends arrived, and the former after some short detention was permitted by French to see him. The constable was then asked for a sight, or description of the warrant by virtue of which he held Miller in custody, but he steadily refused to exhibit or describe it; but still left no doubt on the mind of Miller or his counsel, that the warrant was in a criminal proceeding, and at length avowed that it had been issued by a magistrate at Le Roy. It should here be stated that about eight days before the successive arrests of Morgan and Miller, Daniel Johns, whose sudden appearance at Batavia has been mentioned, suddenly disappeared from that place. A short

time after Miller's introduction to the lodge room at Stafford, this same Daniel Johns entered the room, holding in his hand a drawn sword, and walked with large and quick steps across the room, and, as Miller describes it, seemed anxious to inspire terror into the captive. Miller, however, ventured to remonstrate with him, having learned in some way which he cannot recollect, that Johns was his prosecutor. Johns, however, answered in a voice that faltered a little, "Miller, I am only doing what I have been ordered to do." During his detention in the room, one of the guards told him in language loud enough to be heard by all in the room, that he was not to be tried at Le Roy, nor to stop there, nor to be tried by an ordinary tribunal, but was going where Morgan was. Miller asked, "What tribunal" He replied, "You will see." The others made no remarks in denial or explanation, but he heard one man say to another, "Miller is nothing but *an entered apprentice.*" To detail all the evasive falsehoods and idle assertions, by which French and his coadjutors endeavored to excuse themselves from proceeding with Miller to the justice's office at Le Roy, would be a useless waste of our own time and the patience of the reader.

It was manifest that the conspirators wished to consume the time until night should favor the completion of their projects, and that to proceed to Le Roy was no part of their plan, if it could be avoided. But in the course of the afternoon, French, seemingly by inadvertence, admitted that the process he had against Miller was in fact a process in a civil suit; and from that time his resolution seemed somewhat shaken. About dusk the whole crowd proceeded, with much noise and tumult, to Le Roy, four miles, and after many efforts on the part of French to prevent him from so doing, Miller got himself placed before the justice, who had issued the warrant. French then gave directions to two of his assistants, and disappeared. Miller staid in the office about half an hour, during which time the justice called for the constable and warrant, but neither constable, warrant, or plaintiff appeared, and the justice informed Mr. Miller that he was at liberty to go where he pleased. This was about nine o'clock in the evening. It appeared from the docket of the magistrate that a warrant had been issued against Miller, and one John Davids, on the oath and at the request of Daniel John Davis had been also arrested by the directions of French, but the sheriff of the county informed them that he was in his custody on the jail limits, upon which he was discharged from the arrest. Miller having thus obtained permission to return, was making the best of his way to a public house, when French and Johns suddenly appeared again. The former endeavored to seize Miller by the collar, and called loudly for help to retake the prisoner—Johns asked if there was no person there who would help to secure that man. But although attempts were made to regain possession of Miller, he succeeded in reaching a public house, and after another ineffectual attempt by French and his associates to prevent him, he returned late at night to Batavia, and relieved his family from terror and alarm. That this lawless assemblage of men took place for the purpose of securing the arrest of Miller, by virtue of a process never intended to be acted upon, we shall take no trouble to show to the public. We have conclusive proof from the express declarations of those who led the troop, and from various other sources, that one of the objects they had in view was to pull down the office of Miller, if that should be necessary for the purpose of getting possession of the printed sheets and manuscripts of the expected book.

We are satisfied that their visit was expected by many decent men in the village of Batavia, and their intention to pull down the printing office of Miller, if such a step should become necessary to get possession of the printed sheets and manuscripts of Morgan's book, has been repeatedly proved; and we are also bound to declare that some of those who were in the secret disapproved of the design, and endeavored by the exertion of their personal influence to prevent them from coming. We are not, however, able to state what it would give us satisfaction to state, that any information was given to the magistrates, or other public officers, or to any other respectable inhabitants of the village, which would have apprised them of the intended outrage and justified them in requiring the interference of the civil or military authority. It was a singular circumstance that on the day when the visit of this mob took place, all the magistrates of the village were called upon to attend as witnesses before a justice of the peace in an adjoining town, and were actually absent when they arrived, and continued so absent, until they had departed. We are satisfied that they were regularly summoned to attend as witnesses; and if the circumstance was not accidental, it must of course have been known to the leaders of the mob that their operations on that day would not probably be interrupted by any interference on the part of the official conservators of the peace. At the October sessions of the county court, James Ganson, Jesse French, Roswell Wilcox and James Hurlburt

were indicted for a riot, and for assaulting and falsely imprisoning David C. Miller. Their trial took place at the court of Oyer and Terminer, held in April, before Judge Birdsall, in Genesee county. French, Wilcox and Hurlburt were found guilty, and sentenced to close confinement in the county jail for different periods—viz: French for one year, Wilcox for six months, and Hurlburt for three. Ganson was acquitted; two other indictments were found against him—one for a conspiracy with Daniel Johns and George Ketchum to obtain Morgan's manuscripts or printed sheets; the other for a conspiracy, with sixteen others, to destroy Miller's office. On these he has not yet been tried.

On the trial above mentioned it was proved that on the morning of the 12th, before the party came to Batavia, at Stafford, and in the lodge room Ganson was appointed the leader or captain of the expedition against Miller's office.

Supposing the reader to have perused the affidavit of Mrs. Morgan, we proceed to mention that, immediately after her return (i. e. not more than a few hours) from her useless visit to Canandaigua, to her desolate home, the same Thomas McCully, whom we have mentioned before, called on her, and said "that he had been appointed by the lodge to provide for the support of herself and her children, and had provided board for them at a public tavern in the village:" the same in which her husband had been detained after his arrest on Monday morning before he was put into the carriage and taken away. The unfortunate woman promptly answered, "that she should accept no assistance from 'the Masons,'" for she attributed to them, without any hesitation, the afflictions she was suffering.

It will be seen by her statement that, on her way home James Ganson got into the stage at Le Roy, and assured her that he was then on his way to Batavia *"to make arrangements for her support."* He told her "that her husband had not been killed, but that she must not be surprised if she did not see him again in a year, and if she never saw him again she should be well provided for, and her children sent to school as soon as they were old enough." *

* About the first of March, 1827, Henry Brown, Esquire, of Batavia, said to be Grand Commander of the Knights Templar Encamped at Le Roy, called at Mrs. Morgan's lodgings, and exhibited to the woman with whom she boarded a bag containing, as she said, silver dollars which he professed great anxiety to give to her without delay. Mrs. Morgan never sent for the dollars and they were taken away by Mr. Brown, but it is not known to what use they were subsequently appropriated.

Her distress of mind and unprotected situation did not fail to excite the sympathy and call forth the kind offices of those whose sensibilities were not blunted by vice or hatred to her husband. To compel her, by dire necessity, to cast herself upon the bounty of those who had almost avowed their agency in producing the sudden calamity which had come upon her, and had declared their certain knowledge that there was no probability that she would again have the support and protection of her husband until after the lapse of a year, if ever, could not be tolerated. Her immediate wants were provided for, and an agent sent to Canandaigua to make inquiries into the fate of her husband. He procured the information contained in the depositions of Mary W. Hall, Daniel Tallmadge, Martha Davis, Lasire I. Osborn, Seth Osborn and Timothy Fitch, which gave such an extraordinary aspect to the transactions that it was deemed absolutely necessary to lay them at once before the public at a meeting called for that purpose in the village of Batavia:

State of New York, Ontario County, } *ss*: } MARY W. HALL, of Canandaigua, in said county, being duly sworn deposeth and saith—that she is the wife of Israel R. Hall, keeper of the common jail of said county—that she, this deponent, the said keeper, her husband, and family reside in the jail of said county—that she, this deponent, and her husband had been absent, and returned home on the twelfth of September, instant, in the afternoon—that in the early part of the evening of the said twelfth day of September her husband went out from the jail; that soon after her husband left the jail, and about seven o'clock in the evening, or a little past, a man, who afterwards and during the same evening said his name was Lawson, called at the jail and enquired for Mr. Hall, the keeper, and she, this deponent, informed the said Lawson that Mr. Hall was not at home, and that

Letter from George Ketchum to Mrs. Morgan.

"Rochester, September 14th, 1826.

"MRS. MORGAN—Make yourself contented; I have learnt your husband is well, but cannot learn where, or which way, he went; when I can learn, I will give you the earliest information. Be faithful to what I said to you, and you will find friends; keep your own council, and communicate to me through the post-office. When I write to you it will be handed to you by the person I deliver it to—you must not pass a word with him; but write all the information you can obtain by following what I advised. If you want money, write to me, and I will send it. Commit this to the flames as soon as you read it.

Your Friend, ————————

"You have the name on a small paper I gave you."

N. B. A line was run through the postscript as above, but the words are perfectly legible.

she did not know where he was; that the said Lawson then said that he wanted to see Morgan, alluding, as this deponent supposed, to a man in prison by the name of William Morgan—that this deponent then went to the door of the room in which the said Morgan was confined; that the said Lawson requested to go into the room where Morgan was, but this deponent told him he could not, for it was against the rules of the prison; that the said Lawson said he wished to have a few moments private conversation with Morgan, but this deponent told Lawson he could not say anything to Morgan but what this deponent should hear; that the said Lawson then spoke to Morgan through the grates of the door, and said he wished to have some private conversation with him, the said Morgan, but this woman, alluding to this deponent, would not let him; that this deponent then said to Lawson, "Who be you? do you live in the village?" to which the said Lawson made no reply, but the said Morgan said, "He is a neighbor;" that the said Lawson told Morgan he had come to pay the debt for which the said Morgan was committed; and Lawson asked Morgan if he would go home with him; to which Morgan answered "Yes;" that Lawson then said, when Mr. Hall, meaning the said keeper, came in he (Lawson) would satisfy the execution, and take him, the said Morgan, out and carry him home—that the said Morgan answered it was no matter about it that night—he could wait till morning; that Lawson said no, he would rather take him, the said Morgan, out and carry him home with him that night, for he had been running all day for him, and he was so tired he could hardly stand on his feet; that the said Lawson then went away, and said he would look for Mr. Hall, the said keeper—that in about half an hour the said Lawson returned, and said he had been to the hotel, conference room, and every other place in which he thought he should be likely to find Mr. Hall, but he could not find him—that the said Lawson then requested that this deponent should receive the amount of the execution on which Morgan was committed, and discharge him; but this deponent refused to do this, and told Lawson she did not know the amount—that Lawson told her it was a small sum, and he (Lawson) would leave five dollars, which he knew was more than sufficient—that this deponent then told Lawson that she, this deponent, had understood that Morgan was a rogue, and that she did not like to liberate a rogue—that she, this deponent, understood great pains had been taken to secure Morgan, and

that the public or individuals were interested in having him kept secure—that what she (this deponent) should do would be considered the same as if it had been done by her husband, the said keeper; and if she (this deponent) should discharge Morgan, she was afraid her husband would be blamed; that Lawson said no, Mr. Hall would not be blamed, and represented to this deponent that Mr. Hall understood it perfectly, and if he was at home would discharge Morgan—and further, he, Lawson, said he would pledge himself that Mr. Hall should not be injured or blamed; that he, Lawson, would pledge himself to the amount of fifty or a hundred dollars that Mr. Hall should not be injured if this deponent would discharge Morgan; but this deponent refused, and told Lawson she valued public opinion more than money; that Lawson then asked this deponent if she would discharge Morgan if Col. Sawyer (meaning, as this deponent supposes, one Edward Sawyer of Canandaigua aforesaid) would say she could safely do it, and that it would be right, or if he would pledge himself that Mr. Hall should not be injured, or would run no risk in discharging Morgan; that she, this deponent, answered that she did not know Col. Sawyer any better than she did him, Lawson, and that Col. Sawyer was not the plaintiff in the execution upon which Morgan was committed, and that he, Col. Sawyer, had nothing to do with it—that, however, Lawson then went away, and said he would go and see Col. Sawyer; that Lawson went away and was gone but a few minutes when he (Lawson) returned, and Col. Sawyer with him; that Col. Sawyer requested that this deponent would discharge Morgan, and said there could be no kind of risk in doing so; that Mr. Hall should not be injured; that Lawson would pay the debt, and there could be no harm in discharging the prisoner when that was done; that this deponent said she did not wish to keep a man in jail who ought to be let out, but she did not wish to liberate a rogue, as she understood Morgan was one; that nearly the same conversation again took place as had before passed between this deponent and Lawson; that Col. Sawyer and Lawson appeared to be offended that this deponent would not discharge Morgan; that Lawson said the debt for which Morgan was committed was assigned to Chesebro, (meaning, as this deponent supposed, and afterwards learned, Nicholas G. Chesebro); that Lawson said to Sawyer, "Let us go and find Chesebro;" that they both went to the door, and this deponent also, and saw two men a few rods from the jail coming towards it; that this deponent ob-

served that perhaps one of them might be Hall, upon which Lawson went towards them, and directly one of the said men came to the door of the jail where this deponent and Col. Sawyer were standing; that this deponent asked if it was Mr. Chesebro, to which the man answered "Yes;" and this deponent immediately recognized him to be the said Nicholas G. Chesebro; that this deponent said to Chesebro, "There is a man in jail that these men (meaning Lawson and Col. Sawyer) want me to liberate, and they say you are interested, or that you have bought the debt; that Chesebro said, "Let him go, these men will pay the execution; I don't want to see him, I have no demands upon him;" that this deponent in the early part of the evening, and before Mr. Hall left the jail, had observed Mr. Hall and Chesebro in low conversation, and supposed that probably it was understood between them: she, this deponent, then consented to receive the amount of the execution and discharge Morgan; that during the evening a man had been to the jail with Lawson that Lawson called Foster, but unknown to this deponent; that Lawson, after this deponent consented to receive the amount of the execution, and discharge Morgan, paid to this deponent the said amount of execution, or laid it on the table—that then this deponent took the keys and was going to liberate Morgan; that Lawson spoke to this deponent and said, "Wait, and I will go with you;" that Lawson then stepped to the door and whistled, and then followed this deponent; that when they came to the outer door of the prison, Lawson said to this deponent, "You need not fasten this door after us; but this deponent said she should, for there were other prisoners in the room; that this deponent and Lawson went into the hall adjoining the room where Morgan was, and Lawson spoke in a low voice to Morgan through the grates: "Get yourself ready to go with me—dress yourself quick;" that Morgan was soon ready, and this deponent let him out, and Lawson took Morgan by the arm and went out of the prison to the outer door; that while this deponent was fsatening the prison door she heard at or near the outer door of the jail a most distressing cry of murder; that this deponent ran to the door, and saw Lawson and the man that he called Foster, one on each side of Morgan, having hold of Morgan's arms; and Morgan continued to scream or cry in the most distressing manner, at the same time struggling with all his strength, apparently, to get loose from Lawson and Foster; that the cry of Morgan continued till his voice appeared to be suppressed by something put over his mouth; that during the

time that Morgan was struggling and crying murder, the said Col. Sawyer and the said Chesebro were standing a short distance from the jail door, near the well, and in full view and hearing of all that passed, but offered no assistance to Morgan, nor did they attempt to release him from Lawson and Foster, but one of them struck with a stick a violent blow upon the well curb or a tub standing near; that soon after this deponent saw a carriage pass the jail in the direction that Lawson and Foster took Morgan; that the evening was quite light in consequence of it being about the full of the moon; that she, this deponent, could distinguish from the jail door the horses in the carriage which passed to be gray; that this deponent supposed the striking upon the well curb or tub by Chesebro or Col. Sawyer was a signal for the carriage to come, as it came immediately after; that when the carriage passed, Lawson and Foster could not have got but a few rods with Morgan; that immediately after the striking upon the well curb or tub, Col. Sawyer, and, as this deponent thinks, Chesebro also, passed the jail door in the direction that Lawson and Foster took Morgan, but not apparently to render Morgan any assistance towards being released from Lawson and Foster, but Col. Sawyer however picked up Morgan's hat, which had fallen off in the struggle; that when Morgan was taken from the jail it was about nine o'clock in the evening, or a little past; that this deponent has since been informed that Lawson lives about two or three miles from the jail; that this deponent has never seen Morgan since he was taken from the jail as aforesaid, and knows nothing about where he was taken to, or where he now is, and further saith not. MARY W. HALL.

Subscribed and sworn to, this twenty-third day of September, 1826, before me,

JEFFREY CHIPMAN, J. P.

State of New York, Ontario County, } DANIEL TALLMADGE
ss: } being duly sworn,

deposeth and saith that he now is, and on the eleventh day of September instant was, a prisoner in the jail of said county, at Canandaigua—that on the evening of the said eleventh day of September a man, whose name this deponent learned was William Morgan, was committed to said jail, and put into the room with this deponent; that during the following day Morgan asked this deponent whether Mr. Hall, the jailer, was a Mason, and said if he was he (Morgan) would fare hard, as he was suspected of an intention to reveal the secrets of Masonry—that early in the

but he did not know one of them; that they then told him to turn about and go to Rochester, which he did—that he stopped twice on the road, and passed through Rochester about daylight, and continued on to Hanford's Landing, about three miles below Rochester, where the men said they wanted to take a vessel—that he then left them, and returned home to Canandaigua; that he did not know one of the men whom he carried, though he saw them on the road when they stopped, and also when they got out of the carriage at Hanford's Landing; that he had never been paid anything for going with said party to Hanford's Landing, and did not know who to look to for pay; that one of the men said to him he would see him another day and pay him, but he did not know who it was, nor had he ever seen him since, or any one of the party; that he, Hubbard, kept a livery stable, and horses, and carriages, and frequently carried people to different places. And this deponent further saith that he asked Hubbard to make affidavit of what he had said, but Hubbard said he had rather not, and finally declined. And this deponent further saith, that the place described by Hubbard, where he took the party into his carriage, was but a few rods from the jail, and near the place where Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Osborn deposed they saw Morgan last on the evening he was taken from the jail, and further saith not.

TIMOTHY FITCH.

Subscribed and sworn to, this twenty-ninth day of September, 1826, before me,

C. CARPENTER, J. P.

State of New York, Ontario County, } *ss*: } LASIRA I. OSBORN, daughter of Seth Osborn, of Canandaigua, in said county, aged about twenty-four years, being duly sworn deposeth and saith—that on the evening of the twelfth of September, instant, about nine o'clock in the evening, she, this deponent, was in the chamber of her father's house, which is but a few feet from the jail in Canandaigua—that this deponent heard some bustle about the house, apparently near the jail door—that this deponent then heard a cry of murder, apparently about in front of her father's house, in the street, and but a few feet from the house—that the distinct cry of murder, which this deponent first heard, was soon suppressed into an inarticulate sound of distress, and soon ceased—that just before the time that this deponent heard the said cry of murder she heard some one whistle, and then, or soon after, a loud rap upon the well curb, as this

deponent supposes, as it appeared to be at the well, a few rods from the jail door—that this deponent then heard a carriage pass in the street—that this deponent soon after came down from the chamber, and a carriage passed the other way having two gray horses before the carriage—and further this deponent saith not.

LASIRA I. OSBORN.

Subscribed and sworn to, this twenty-third day of September, 1826, before me,

JEFFREY CHIPMAN, J. P.

State of New York, Ontario County, } *ss*: } SETH OSBORN, of Canandaigua, in said county, being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that on the evening of the twelfth day of September, instant, about nine o'clock, or between nine and ten o'clock, he, this deponent, went to the door of his house, which is near the jail in Canandaigua—that he saw some men a few rods from his door—that one of the men appeared to be partly down and struggling, and making a faint noise of distress—that this deponent went towards the men, one of whom was a little behind the rest, and this deponent asked him what was the matter? to which the man, whom this deponent understood and believes to have been Col. Sawyer, of Canandaigua, aforesaid, answered, "Nothing, only a man has been let out of jail and been taken on a warrant, and is going to be tried, or to have his trial," upon which this deponent went back into his house, and further saith not.

SETH OSBORN.

Subscribed and sworn to, this twenty-third day of September, 1826, before me,

JEFFREY CHIPMAN, J. P.

The committee appointed at the Batavia meeting published the following notice, and sent an agent to make enquiries along the road from Rochester to Lewiston and Fort Niagara:

TO THE PUBLIC.

On the 11th day of September, William Morgan, a native of Virginia, who had for about three years past resided in this village, was, under pretext of a justice's warrant, hurried from his home and family, and carried to Canandaigua. The same night he was examined on a charge of Petit Larceny, and discharged by the justice. One of the persons who took him away immediately obtained a warrant against him, in a civil suit, for an alleged debt of two dollars on which he was committed to the jail of

Ontario county. On the night of the 12th of September, he was released by a person pretending to be his friend, but directly in front of the jail, notwithstanding his cries of MURDER, he was gagged and secured, and put into a carriage, and after traveling all night, he was left (as the driver of the carriage says) at Hanford's Landing, about sunrise on the 13th, since which he has not been heard of. His distressed wife and two infant children are left dependent on charity for their sustenance. The circumstances of the transaction have given rise to the most violent fears that he has been murdered. It is however hoped by his wife and friends that he may be now kept concealed and imprisoned in Canada. All persons who are willing to serve the cause of humanity, and assist to remove the distressing apprehensions of his unfortunate wife are earnestly requested to communicate to one of the committee named below, directed to this place, any facts or circumstances which have come to their knowledge, and are calculated to lead to the discovery of his present situation, or the particulars of his fate, if he has been murdered.—Batavia, October 4, 1826.

T. F. TALBOT,	JON. LAY,
D. E. EVANS,	T. FITCH,
T. CARY,	L. D. PRINDLE,
WM. KEYES,	E. SOUTHWORTH,
WM. DAVIS,	JAS. P. SMITH,

Committee.

N. B. It is hoped that printers throughout the State, in Canada, and elsewhere, will give the above a few insertions, and thus serve the cause of justice and humanity.

Hopes were for many weeks entertained that he was merely detained in confinement until the suppression of his book could be effected by terror or negotiation; but week after week passed away, and no correct information of him was received. In this state of suspense and anxiety, circumstances occurred which in a great degree destroyed all hopes of his being discovered, and created the most unpleasant feelings in the community. It soon became manifest to the Committee of Genesee county that several hundred men had been actually concerned in different parts of the transactions which had ended in his disappearance. Many of them were men of high standing, and good general characters. Numbers of them, without hesitation, openly declared that Morgan would never be seen again—men who had frequently asked for, and obtained,

the confidence of their fellow citizens, unreservedly justified the conduct of those by whom he had been kidnapped and laughed at the efforts that were making to discover his fate. The distress of his wife was spoken of with contemptuous levity in the streets.

Chesebro had assured the keeper of the jail at Canandaigua that Morgan "had gone where Miller would never see him again." James Ganson exultingly told a member of the Genesee Committee, whom he met in the streets of Rochester, that Morgan could not have been rescued if he had been closely followed by his friends—that if the Committee "could hang, draw and quarter all the Masons that had a hand in it, they could not get him back—that he *was not dead, but was put where he would stay put until God Almighty should call for him.*" Similar, and well authenticated, declarations reached us from the neighboring towns, and from distant places; and a large number of citizens, who were understood to be members of lodges, spoke of the occurrence with a visible air of triumph. The members of the Committee, as they walked the streets, were several times asked by men who had openly justified the conduct of his kidnappers, "Well, have you found Morgan yet?"

Various efforts were made to deter some of them from acting, by friendly remonstrances, by hints of the great disadvantage it would be to them, by saying they would raise up numerous and powerful enemies. Many decent men of the order of Masons declared "that efforts to learn the fate of Morgan would be useless—that if we could discover the guilty we could not get them punished; that they had acted according to their orders, and would be borne out— that their body had a right to deal with their own members according to their own laws—that if they had done anything with him, it was no one's business but their own." * They said that the men who had determined to

* A similar declaration in relation to the destruction of Miller's office should not be omitted. Two of the justices of the peace residing in the village of Batavia are active members of the Masonic society. On the day when Miller was taken away, they were, as before related, attending as witnesses before a magistrate in Bethany. One of them declared to a member of the Genesee Committee, in the presence of the other, that "he need not be surprised if, when he returned to Batavia, he found Miller's office leveled with the ground." He asked them, "if they, being justices of the peace, thought such proceedings right?" "Why," said one of them, "if you found a man abusing your marriage bed, would you have recourse to the law, or take a club and beat his brains out?" This person still holds the office which renders it his peculiar duty to preserve the peace of the county, and secure by recognizance or imprisonment the persons of those who may threaten to break it.

suppress the book acted in a body, and in concert; were well organized and could act with effect, and possessed the offices, talents, and wealth of the country; that they understood one another, and would pursue with their vengeance all who should interfere with them.

Far from affecting to think that Morgan had disappeared voluntarily, and for sinister purposes, or was colluding with his kidnappers to deceive the public and excite attention to his book (the first part of which was not then published, and did not appear for some weeks afterwards,) we heard not the slightest insinuation of the kind. On the contrary, his abduction was spoken of as having defeated the publication; and we believe they, in general, supposed that its suppression was accomplished; and were extremely mortified and disappointed when it made its appearance, with assurances from the publisher that the other parts of the work had been finished by Morgan and would certainly be published.*

We now resume our narrative in relation to the fate of Morgan, after he had, as before related, been imprisoned in the jail at Canandaigua.

The next evening after Morgan's imprisonment for the small debt, soon after dusk Loton Lawson called at the jail and desired to see Morgan, which, after some objections from the keeper, he was permitted to do. He proposed paying the debt, and taking Morgan with him to his house, a short distance from the village. Morgan seemed willing to be relieved, but expressed an inclination to wait in jail until the next morning, and retired to his bed. After a short absence Lawson returned again; and having procured a carriage, and the assistance of a sufficient number of men, he eventually obtained the consent of the jailer's wife, who was acting in the absence of her husband, to the discharge of Morgan, and he accordingly left the apartment in which he had been confined (Lawson holding him by the arm,) at about nine o'clock in the evening—almost directly in front of the jail he was seized by his supposed friend, Lawson, and some other person,

* The reader will readily preceive that their confidence in having suppressed the work was not without plausible foundations. Ketchum had obtained from Mrs. Morgan the original manuscript of the first three degrees: (see her affidavit) they were delivered to her by Miller for the purpose of negotiating with the fraternity for the restoration of her husband, after he had no further use for them. Goodwill, Stone and others had surreptitiously gotten several of the sheets into their possession, when they broke into Morgan's room; and they, the same evening, had ransacked every place at his lodgings where they could hope to find the manuscripts. Such parts of the unprinted work as were then completed, and had not been delivered to Miller, were at the time concealed in a straw bed, in the room from which Morgan was taken.

and notwithstanding his struggles and cries of *murder*, he was gagged, and led away from the jail. The cry of murder, and the appearance of a struggle in the street, excited a momentary attention from the people living in the vicinity of the jail, and a man ran out to ascertain what was the cause. The first person he came up with was Col. Edward Sawyer, who, with Nicholas G. Chesebro, was standing near by, spectators of the scene. When asked what was the matter, Col. Sawyer, answered him promptly, "Nothing, only a man has been let out of jail, and has been taken on a warrant and is going to be tried." Receiving this answer from a person of good character, whom he knew, the man turned about and declined to interfere. Sawyer's own account of the transaction, and the part he took in it, will be seen by his affidavit. The carriage after having left Canandaigu was next noticed at the village of Victor; it was first driven into the yard of a tavern kept by Dr. Thomas Beach, from thence into the yard of one Enos Gillis, back of the barn and out of sight of the road, about forty rods from the tavern of Beach. James Gillis here took from his brother's stable a horse, which he mounted, and proceeded on. The hostler was called on to get a horse for Lawson, whom he knew; when the hostler returned to the house he said he heard some one exclaim, *"Damn him, he ought to be drawn and quartered."* James Gillis, who then resided at Montmorency, in Pennsylvania, a brother, of Enos Gillis, was recognized at Victor by several persons who knew him well, and was seen the next day on horseback in the vicinity; his participation in the transaction will account for the assertion of George Ketchum, as stated in Mrs. Morgan's affidavit, "that a man had come from Pennsylvania, and had taken him away in a private carriage." A comparison of these assertions and circumstances will enable the reader to form some opinion of the extent of the conspiracy—the ample preparations that had been made to effect the object of it, and the accuracy of the information possessed by all concerned in it, as to who were the principal managers. Gillis disappeared immediately, and has not since been seen in this State; he was included in the first indictment found against Lawson, Sawyer, Chesbro and others, but as yet has not been arrested or tried—Enos Gillis also soon afterwards left the country, and has

lately moved his family away, and since he was examined before the jury in November, 1826, has always been absent from the county at such times as it was probable he would be called on to testify. After leaving Victor the party drove to Rochester, 28 miles northwesterly from Canandaigua, and reached Hanford's tavern, about three miles below that place a little after daylight, with horses very much fatigued. Hubbard, who owned, and drove the carriage, when applied to for information in relation to his employers, and his journey, gave the extraordinary and incredible account detailed in the affidavit of Mr. Fitch; and when afterwards examined on oath before the grand jury his account was entirely the same. He has, however, been since indicted as a conspirator, but has not yet been tried. Before the Canadaigua carriage arrived at Rochester, a carriage belonging to Ezra Platt, a Royal Arch Mason, and a livery-stable keeper in that place, was procured, and sent forward in advance of the Canandaigua carriage, and stopped at some sequestred place while it was yet dark, in the vicinity of Hanford's tavern. The Canandaigua carriage, on its arrival at Hanford's tavern was driven under a shed, opposite the house, before any of the party alighted—two men then got out of it, went into the tavern, and requested some grain for their horses and something to drink for themselves—they drank at the bar, and took a bottle of gin and a glass to the carriage. One of the men remarked, while standing on the steps of the house, "He was damned glad to get out of jail." This observation attracted Mrs. Hanford's attention, as she suspected from it that a person for whom one of her neighbors was bail had been spirited away from the limits, and she feared her neighbor might be injured by it. The men came in soon, and said they had not time to feed their horses, and did not want the grain. All that had alighted returned to the carriage except one, who remained walking the piazza. This tavern stands at the intersection of the Lewiston ridge road and the Genesee river road; and the carriage drove out upon the ridge with the curtains all down. It was absent nearly an hour and returned with the curtains up, and a man on a horse, also belonging to the same Ezra Platt, riding before it. This man was recognized as being the same person who had come to the tavern and made enquiries for a carriage of such description, and the direction it had taken, and who upon being informed had immediately ridden in the direction which he was told the carriage had taken; and the informant has declared that he recognized the rider in the person of

Edward Doyle, of Rochester, a merchant.* Hubbard deposed before the grand jury that the persons whom he took from Canandaigua left his carriage in a secluded place a short distance from Hanford's, and entered into the Rochester carriage, which proceeded along the ridge road. It was next noticed at Clarkson, fifteen miles further west, about nine o'clock in the morning. It was an extremely warm day, and the singularity of the circumstance that the curtains were all closed in a warm morning attracted attention—the carriage made a short stop in he middle of the street, which also attracted some notice. No person alighted except the driver, who went into Baldwin's tavern, and then immediately proceeded onward. The horses were exchanged about two and a half miles west of Clarkson, at the house of one Allen, whose horses were taken from the field for that purpose. Here, too, the carriage remained closed and no one alighted while the horses were changed. The person who drove the carriage from Rochester to this place, as soon as enquiries in relation to the transaction were set on foot, left the country, and has not yet returned. The carriage arrived at the village of Gaines about 12 o'clock, closed in the same manner as at Clarkson; passed through the village without stopping and proceeded about one mile west of the village, where it stopped in the road at a distance from any house. Elihu Mather of that place took a pair of horses belonging to his brother, James Mather, and overtook the carriage about one mile from Gaines, where the horses were exchanged in the middle of the road, and at a distance from any house. Mather himself then mounted the box and rove on, which circumstance excited observation, as he is a man of property, at the head of a large

* On the trial of Chesebro, Sawyer, Lawson and Sheldon, for kidnapping William Morgan, Burrage Smith and John Whitney were called as witnesses. Both of them objected to answering any questions because to do so would criminate themselves; after being well instructed by the court as to the nature of this privilege, they in substance deposed—That they were at Lewiston on the 14th of September; that two or three days before that day they went together from Rochester (where they lived and had families,) to Canandaigua, where they arrived about 3 o'clock P. M.: that they heard that Morgan was in jail at that place; that they saw Lawson in the evening; that they heard Lawson converse that night about the taking away of Morgan in company with three or four others—Smith admitted that he left Canandaigua the night Morgan was taken away, and he said probably about 8 o'clock. Whitney refused to say at what time he had left Canandaigua, because it would criminate him, and the court decided that he was not bound to answer the question. A few days after the trial those two men absconded, leaving their families at Rochester, where they were both engaged in regular business; they had before enjoyed a respectable standing in that place, and were generally considered thriving men.

tanning establishment, and of course not accustomed to be seen in such employment. On his return he stopped at Hughes' tavern—said he had driven the carriage for his brother to Morehouse's tavern, and added, "I think I make a good stage-driver—do I not?" At Ridgeway one Jeremiah Brown, supervisor of that town, and lately a member of the legislature, suddenly took his horses from the field where they were hitched to a harrow, led them to the nearest public house, where they were fed, and then harnessed them to the carriage, and mounted the box himself and drove on.*

About, or shortly before, sun-down the carriage arrived at Wright's tavern, nearly north of the village of Lockport, and instead of driving up to the door of the house, it was driven into the barn, and out of sight; the persons who came with it guarded the barn and carriage in such a manner as to keep off all persons from seeing the carriage.† A large number of men were seen assembled at Wright's, some of whom appeared to be armed with clubs; and the horse of Wright was kept standing all night at the post, saddled. Much whispering and clustering was observed and it was rumored or given out that they were collected for the purpose of preventing the escape or rescue of a prisoner, under the charge of the people in the carriage. The next day a niece of the innkeeper told one of the neighbors that they had prepared supper for a number of Masons, and had received previous notice to be ready for them. The following deposition of the toll-keeper at Wright's tavern, contains important evidence:

Niagara County, } ss. } DAVID MAXWELL, being sworn —saith that in the night of the thirteenth day of September last, he was at home attending to the keeping of the turnpike gate on the ridge road,

* The only passenger who went in the stage from Rochester to Lewiston, on the thirteenth of September, 1826, the day of course after Morgan was taken away from Canandaigua, and the day on which he was carried from Rochester to Lewiston, was a reverend clergyman of Rochester who officiated in some capacity at the Lewiston installation on the fourteenth. The stage stopped at Murdock's tavern, near the residence of Brown. A boy was immediately dispatched on horseback with a note from this gentleman to Brown, and a request that he would come without any delay, on the same horse which the boy had ridden, Brown came, accordingly, and had a private interview with the reverend gentleman. This was but a short time before he brought his horses to the same tavern, where he fed them and waited for the carriage.

† Between the house and barn there was a large, open shed, amply sufficient to cover many carriages and horses.

so-called, about nineteen miles distant from Lewiston; about eleven o'clock P. M., he was sitting in the toll-house, and heard a carriage pass through the gate very slowly and upon opening the door he saw Jeremiah Brown, of Ridgeway, standing directly in front of the door, and saw the carriage standing in the road, about three rods west of the house. He, Brown, had a shilling in his hand, which he handed to him, being the exact amount of the toll on the carriage. Deponent said, "How do you do, Captain Brown?" He made no answer, and turned away quickly and went towards the carriage. Deponent called to him quite loudly, and said, "What is the matter?" Brown answered, "Nothing." Deponent took notice of the carriage because he had never known Brown to have anything to do with a coach before, and it struck him as a thing out of the usual course. He thinks the curtains were closed. Brown joined the carriage; but whether he got into it or got on the river's seat, deponent cannot say. The carriage drove off quickly; when deponent entered into the house, himself and his wife had a conversation, and expressed to each other their wonder as to the course that should take Captain Brown west with a coach so late at night. He, Brown, is a farmer, in good circumstances, residing about fourteen miles east of the gate, and well known to deponent and his wife, and passing the gate frequently, and never to the knowledge and recollection of deponent with any other carriage than a common two-horse farm wagon. They eventually concluded that he, perhaps, had gone on to Lewiston to an installation. The next morning before breakfast, and not far from sunrise, the same carriage, as he thinks, arrived at the gate, driven by a person he did not then know. The middle curtains were then up, and deponent distinctly saw the said Jeremiah Brown sitting on the back seat of the carriage, appearing to be asleep, and leaning back; he saw no other person in the carriage. Deponent said to the driver, "How far did you go out, did you go to Lewiston?" He hesitated a little and said, "No, we did not go to Lewiston." The deponent and his wife then observed to each other that they had not gone to the installation. Deponent took notice that the coach was a chocolate color, it appeared to be a hack carriage that had been much used.

DAVID MAXWELL.

Sworn the twenty-second day of March, 1827, before me,
DANIEL SEAMAN, J. P.

About ten o'clock at night the gate-keeper heard a carriage pass the toll-house, distant a few rods from Wright's

tavern very quietly, and supposing it was intended to pass without paying toll, he went hastily to the door—on opening it he found Brown standing in front of it, holding the toll money in his hand, but the carriage had passed on a short distance. Being well acquainted with Brown, he asked him, familiarly, "What is the great hurry " Brown answered, "Nothing," and immediately went to the carriage, which drove off with great speed.

About sunrise the next morning the same carriage repassed the gate, driven by Mather, the curtains up, and Brown, the only passenger, asleep, or pretending to be so. Maxwell, the gate-keeper, asked the person driving, "How far did you go last night—did you go to Lewiston?" He answered, with a little hesitation, "No, not so far." This, as relates to the carriage, was a falsehood, as will be seen by the subsequent narration. The distance from Wright's to Mollineux's tavern, in Cambria, is about six miles, and from thence to Lewiston, is thirteen miles. About eleven o'clock at night, of the same 13th of September, Eli Bruce, then and now the high sheriff of Niagara county, who resides at Lockport, about four miles from the ridge road, arrived at Mollineux's tavern in company with the carriage driven by Brown.* It stopped in front of the house, the curtains being closed quite round—Bruce went into the house and enquired for the landlord, who was in bed; he was shown to his room by a hired girl, the only person up. After a short conversation in private with the landlord, Bruce called up his son and desired him to put a pair of horses before the carriage, to go as far as Lewiston. The son expressed to Bruce his desire to drive himself, as the horses were young, and he did not like to trust them with other persons. Bruce objected to his doing so, and said he had a careful driver, pointing to a man who he (young Mollineux) knew to be Jeremiah Brown. The apparent hurry, and the circumstance that Bruce was sheriff of the county, induced the girl to enquire of Bruce what was the matter? he answered, "You cannot know at present." The carriage soon afterward

* A few minutes before Bruce arrived with the carriage, a man rode up on horseback to the same tavern, and enquired for Col. Mollineux, a son of the tavern-keeper, and a member of the fraternity; and being told that he had gone to Lewiston, rode off at a quick rate eastward, and returned with the carriage. From this, and similar enquiries and occurrences at Hanford's and other places, the reader will observe ho waccurate was the information possessed by the conspirators as to the time when the carriage would arrive at places sixty miles distant from each other, and he may form some opinion of the extent of the conspiracy, and the number concerned in it.

started for Lewiston, driven by Brown, and Mather remained at Mollineux's. Brown returned with the same carriage before day-light, having traveled a distance of twenty-six miles in about five hours. The horses were so much jaded that young Mollineux was very angry at their usage, and declared to a relation "that Bruce should never have his horses again to drive in that fashion."

Sometime in the night of the same 13th of September, the carriage arrived at Lewiston, 70 miles westerly from Rochester. Bruce and Samuel Barton of Lewiston, one of the stage proprietors, went together into the stage office at Lewiston, and Barton enquired of Joshua Fairbanks (who kept the stage books, and usually slept in the office) what drivers were at home—Fairbanks answered him, none, but Fox, who was asleep in an adjoining room. Barton immediately called up Fox, and soon left the office, followed by Bruce. When Fox went out, Barton told him to get up a carriage, and drive some gentlemen to Youngstown. The carriage was accordingly gotten ready by Fox, who drove it up to the front door of the tavern called the Frontier House, where he found Bruce waiting, who immediately got into it, and told him to drive round the house into a back street, where he drove accordingly, and found a carriage standing in the middle of the street, in front of Samuel Barton's dwelling house. The horses had been taken from it, and the curtains were all closed; he drove alongside of that carriage, but remained on his seat. Here Bruce got out, and Fox then saw him and another man assist a third man to get out of the carriage into the other*—they then both entered the carriage, and Bruce told Fox to drive on. During all this time, as Fox deposed, not a word was said, not even a whisper heard from any one of the three men. The carriage then proceeded to Youngstown, a distance of six miles, during all of which time the same profound silence seemed to be preserved by those in the carriage. At Youngstown the carriage stopped, by order of Bruce, in the street in front of the house occupied by Col. William King—then Bruce

* Another witness deposed that on the morning of the 14th of September, 1826, he was up taking care of a sick person about one or two o'clock, that he looked towards Samuel Barton's stage barn—saw a carriage and horses driven near a carriage without horses—saw three men go from the standing carriage to the one with horses—one of the men appeared to have a handkerchief around his head, and to be intoxicated, and was helped by the other two—some time afterward he saw a man in Lewiston, whom he believed was the same he saw at the carriage—asked who he was, and was told it was Eli Bruce—knew the driver at the time—it was Corydon Fox—he stood about 100 feet from the carriage—it was a bright moonlight night.

got out and knocked at the door, and called up Col. King; the door was soon opened, and a light soon after seen in the house, where Bruce remained about fifteen minutes; during that time the driver heard something said by a person in the carriage, which appeared to him a call for water. Bruce appeared to hear the voice, and replied "Yes, yes, you shall have some;" no water, however, was brought to the carriage. King came out of the door, and with Bruce got into the carriage, and Bruce directed the driver to go on, when the carriage proceeded towards Fort Niagara, which is about one mile distant from Youngstown. About 80 rods from the Fort, near the grave-yard, Bruce ordered him to stop, which he did, but (as he said) still did not leave his seat, when four persons left the carriage, and walked from it in a huddle (as he expressed it) toward the Fort. When they had proceeded a short distance from the carriage, Bruce told him he might go back about his business, and he (Fox) returned, with the carriage to Lewiston empty.

The next day Fox mentioned the singularity of the circumstances attending his jaunt to Paul Mosher, a Mason, and told him he (Fox) thought he heard King say as he came to the carriage, "What, Morgan, are you here?" Mosher being struck with the strangeness of the transaction asked another member of the lodge what it meant, who told him he "believed it was Morgan." He made similar enquires of another Mason, who told him "it was Morgan, for Bruce told him so." In the forenoon of the same day, September 14th, Mosher saw Bruce at Lewiston, and asked him why he was so imprudent as to have the driver he did, for he was not a Mason. Bruce answered that *Sam* (meaning *Samuel Barton*) was more in the fault than he was, for he told him to send a Mason. Mosher asked Bruce if he actually had Morgan, who answered that he *had*. On the same day S. Barton asked Mosher if Fox mistrusted that Morgan was in the carriage—Mosher told him that Fox was telling the circumstances about the village; Barton then told him to say to Fox, if he knew anything he *must* keep it to himself, and hold his tongue, or he would discharge him; and at the same time remarked to Mosher that there must be another man smuggled away to blind that transaction—that Mosher, being a Mason ought to have been sent, but having been called up in the night in his hurry he did not think.

The following deposition of Paul Mosher, and the official certificate of Justice A. G. Hinman of the evidence given in

the trial of Eli Bruce before him are important. While it may not have seemed to Justice Hinman that Sheriff Bruce was clearly convicted of crime in the part he took in the abduction of Wm. Morgan, we think the circumstantial evidence very strong, and we connot believe that a discerning public will be thus lenient in their judgment of one who instead of being a disturber of the peace ought to be its conservator:

Niagara County, } ss: } PAUL MOSHER, of Lewiston, in said county, being duly sworn, doth on his oath declare that previous to the month of December last past, this deponent had been in the employ of the stage proprietors at Lewiston, (his special business being to regulate and superintend the arrival and departure of the stages) for more than one year—that while in such employ, on the morning of the 14th day of September last, (about 4 o'clock) one of the drivers informed him that he had just returned from Youngstown. This driver was Corydon Fox, who further stated that Samuel Barton, one of the stage proprietors, had called him up sometime that night and directed him to get up a carriage and drive it to Youngstown. Fox also stated that Eli Bruce, (sheriff of Niagara county), or, as he called him. Bruce, came with Mr. Barton, when he was called up—that after getting the carriage ready, Bruce told him (Fox) to drive round to a back street; he did so and found a carriage in the street, without horses; that there was something curious about it; he thought here was a man in the carriage who was gagged and bound, that there were two persons who came out of the carriage, standing in the street, and both with Bruce got into the one he was driving. Bruce told him to go or drive on; he was directed to stop at the residence of Col. King, he halted accordingly in front of the door or house at Youngstown; Bruce got out and called up King; Bruce and King both got into the carriage; that he heard a man in the carriage call for water, and Bruce said he should have some. He also thought he heard King say, "Morgan, are you here?" that he (Fox) was directed to drive on, and when about half way from Youngstown to the Fort, Bruce told him to stop; he did so, and they all got out, and he returned to Lewiston. Fox has more recently stated that it was near the grave-yard where he stopped. This deponent thinking it strange that passengers should leave the carriage

distant from a house, in the night, was led to inquire of a Mason present (this deponent being also one) the reason of it, he answered that he believed it was Morgan. The deponent inquired of another Mason, and was told it was Morgan, for Bruce told him so. In the forenoon of the same day (14th Sept.) the deponent saw Bruce and asked why he was so imprudent as to have the driver he did, for he was not a Mason, to which Bruce replied that Sam (meaning Samuel Barton) was more in the fault than himself, for he told him to send a Mason. The deponent then asked Bruce if he actually had Morgan? he said he had, and the conversation ended here. Samuel Barton asked this deponent the same if Fox mistrusted Morgan was in the carriage; the deponent told him that Fox was telling about the village the circumstances of his having driven the carriage, &c., which led this deponent to believe, and probably would others, that it was Morgan. Barton then told the deponent to go and say to Fox that if he knew anything to keep it to himself and hold his tongue, or he would discharge him, and further stated that there must be another man smuggled away to blind that transaction. He further said that the deponent, being a Mason was the man who ought to have been sent as driver, but being called up in the night in a hurry he did not think. In the afternoon of the same day said Barton came to the deponent, and directed him to borrow a saddle and bridle and put them on a horse as soon as possible, and hitch it by another horse standing under the shed, pointing that way, and which horse appeared as if he had been ridden fast; he added that he had heard from the Fort and must send a man down, for he was afraid there would be trouble yet. He did as directed and the two horses were ridden off soon after, the one put there by this deponent by a Mason resident in Lewiston, the other by a person not known to this deponent. Next morning the deponent asked said Barton if there was any trouble at the Fort to which he replied, "I guess it is still enough." Fox, the driver before mentioned, within, say three or four weeks afterwards, joined the lodge in Lewiston, at a special meeting called for that purpose, and on being solicited so to do by a Mason who was sent to Fox to induce him to join, and who, pursuant to instruction, told Fox that if he wanted funds, meaning for his admittance, he should have them. This deponent further saith, that in relating the above facts and circumstances, which he heard from several individuals at different times and places, he has not pretended to give the exact words in all cases, but verily

believes the substance is truly and correctly set forth, and further saith not. PAUL MOSHER.

Subscribed and sworn to, at Youngstown, Niagara County, the 22nd of March, 1827, before me,

A. G. HINMAN, J. P.

Niagara County, } ss: I, A. G. HINMAN, one of the justices of the peace, of said county, do hereby certify, that on the 29th of last December complaint was made on oath before me, setting forth in substance, that there was full cause to suspect that Eli Bruce, sheriff of the said county, had, on or about the 13th or 14th of last September, forcibly and without due process of law, held William Morgan in duress for some time, within the said county, and had secretly and illegally conveyed him thence to parts unknown. Whereupon I issued a warrant against the said Eli Bruce, who was brought before me, for examination, on the 30th of said December. And I do further certify that the information taken on such examination was substantially as follows, to wit: that the said Eli Bruce came to Mollineux's tavern, about twelve miles east of Lewiston, on the ridge road, on the night of the 13th of said September, at about 10 or 11 o'clock, in a hack or coach the curtains of which were closed quite around. He went in and inquired for the landlord, who was in bed, was shown into his room, afterwards called up the landlord's son, who was also in bed, and requested him to put a pair of horses before his carriage, to relieve those that came with it, to go as far as Lewiston; which was done. The son asked if he should drive: Bruce replied he had a driver who was a careful man, pointing to a man whom the witness knew to be Jeremiah Brown. Bruce was also asked by a hired girl what the matter was: he answered "You cannot know at present." He soon left there with the carriage, driven by Brown towards Lewiston. At Lewiston the same night, but the hour not ascertained, the said Bruce went with Samuel Barton, a stage proprietor, to the stage-office to ascertain what driver could be had to go to Youngstown: on being informed by Joshua Fairbanks, who slept there, that none but Fox was there, Fox was called up and directed to harness a carriage which he did, and drove up to the Frontier House, where said Bruce got in and ordered the carriage driven to a back street—on arriving there, in front of said Barton's dwelling-house, a carriage was found in the street without any horses attached to it, and two men, either one or both of whom were in it, got out, and went into the other; one was helped in by the arm—nothing was said. When, to-

gether with said Bruce, being seated, the driver was ordered by Bruce to drive to Youngstown. Witness heard no conversation from the passengers that he could distinguish. On arriving at Youngstown, Bruce directed him to stop in front of Col. King's house in Youngstown—he did so and Bruce got out and called up Col. King, went in, and in a few minutes, say fifteen, came out, together with King, and both got into the carriage, when Bruce told the driver to go on. While at this house the driver heard a strange kind of sound from one of the persons in the carriage, which he thought was a call for water, though he could not say that the articulation was sufficiently distinct to be understood—Bruce answered he should have some presently—none was, however, given or brought. The carriage proceeded to within a short distance of Fort Niagara, near the grave-yard, when the driver was directed to stop, and the persons within, four in number, he thought, got out—one was assisted as before—and they proceeded off from the side of the carriage, closely together, towards the Fort. Bruce told the driver to go back, and he immediately returned. The next morning (the 14th) the said Eli Bruce being at Lewiston, he was asked if he went to Youngstown the night before—he said he did: he was then asked if he took Morgan down—he replied he did, and observed that Sam, meaning said Barton, was very imprudent in sending Fox—that he had told him his business, and he had not ought to have sent any but a Mason.

There were five witnesses sworn, whose testimony is included in the above statement. No attempt was made to impeach either of them, nor was any evidence offered on the part of Mr. Bruce.

As there was no proof adduced on this examination that a William Morgan had been forcibly seized and carried away from Canandaigua, or elsewhere, nor that force, violence or restraint had been exercised upon the person of any individual in the carriage, said Bruce was discharged.

Given under my hand, at Youngstown, in the said county, the twenty-first day of March, 1827.

A. G. HINMAN, J. P.

Thus far we have positive testimony, sufficient, we think to prove most satisfactorily that Wm. Morgan was, in the manner we have related, conducted to the vicinity of Fort Niagara; and here our direct and positive proof ends; but the facts and circumstances hereafter detailed are authenticated by unquestionable testimony, and will be submitted to the reader that he may draw such conclusions as he shall think they warrant.

Niagara County, } EDWARD GIDDINS, of the county aforesaid, being duly sworn saith—that he has resided at Fort Niagara from the year eighteen hundred and fifteen till the present time, with the exception of about eight months—that from the year sixteen to the year twenty, this deponent had charge of the building called the magazine, the greater part of the time—that when the United States troops left the Fort in the month of May last, this deponent again took charge of the building, and continued so in charge until about the first of August, when he gave up the keys to Col. E. Jewett, who yet retains the care of it. This building stands on the southerly side of the Fort—is built of stone, about the height of a common two-story building, and measures about fifty by thirty feet on the ground—is arched over—the side and end walls are about four feet thick—the wall over the top is about eight feet thick, and is considered bomb proof—covered with a shingle roof—there is but one door, around which there is a small entry, to which there is a door also—there are no windows or apertures in the walls, except a small ventilator for the admission of air, and one small window in each end, about ten feet from the ground—they are usually kept closed, and locked on the outside with a padlock—these shutters are made of plank, covered with sheet iron—the floor is laid with plank, pinned to the sleepers with wood pins. That at the time certain persons were at the Fort in January last, Col. Jewett being unwell, this deponent was requested to visit the magazine, which they wished to examine—that on entering and examining the said building, one of the floor planks, supposed to be one and a half inches thick, was observed by some of the committee to have been newly broken, directly on one of the sleepers, and about six feet from one end; and this deponent was enquired of by some of the committee how that plank became broken—this deponent told them he did not know; further, he has now no recollection of its being broken when he gave up the keys, and believes it was not. This deponent has also been enquired of whether a loose door, which the committee saw in the building, belonged there, or was there, when he gave up possession—to which this deponent answered that it did not belong to the building, nor did he recollect of its being there at the time he surrendered the key; further, whether it has been usual to admit any liquid within the building—t. which this deponent

answered that he never admitted any while he had charge, nor was it usual, so far as his knowledge extends; and he should suppose it one of the last things to be admitted to such a place. The chief aim ought to be to keep it dry—the utmost care has always been taken, and the key of the building only entrusted with particular persons: on entering the building it has been usual to remove or leave the shoes at the door, or else draw on woolen socks over them. There is, nearly in the middle of the floor, frame pieces upon which to lay fixed ammunition: the usual arrangement of the boxes, kegs, &c., containing powder, is to place them round the building on the floor, so far fistant from the wall as to prevent them contracting dampness, say from one to two feet, unless empty when they are set next the wall. EDWARD GIDDINS.

Subscribed and sworn to, at Porter, in the county of Niagara, the nineteenth day of March, 1827, before me.

A. G. HINMAN.

The Fort at that time was unoccupied, excepting by the keeper and his wife, and there is no dwelling-house near it excepting a small ferry-house directly on the bank of the river, occupied by Mr. Giddins, who then occasionally entertained travelers, and has had charge of the Fort from May, 1826, when the troops left it, until August 1st, 1826, when he surrendered it to the care of the person who still has charge of it. The Magazine is a very strong building, the entrance to which is secured by two doors: the first, or outside door is usually fastened by an iron bolt, secured from being slipped by a padlock; the inside door is made of white-oak plank, cased on the outside with sheet iron, and was originally fastened by a large stock-lock nailed to a large piece of white-oak plank, which had been nailed to the inner side of the door with wrought nails of a large size. Directly opposite to the inside door is a thick, stone wall, forming one side of a stone portico, built around the inner door which opens into the portico, and is furnished with a large wooden handle spiked on to facilitate the pulling of it open. No light can enter the building excepting from two very small windows, very near the ridge of the roof, elevated about fifteen feet from the floor. The keys have usually hung in the open entry of the mess-room, a very large building occupied by the keeper. It will be seen by the affidavit of Giddins, (who is a member of the Masonic society), that he surrendered the building to the present keeper on the first of August in perfect order—that the empty ammunition boxes were ranged along the walls at the distance of

about a foot from them—that he recollects of no loose door being inside of the building when he delivered it up to the present keeper—and should not have considered it proper to leave that or any other thing there which did not properly belong to it—that it was as usual whitewashed on the inside about the first of May. In the month of January last, 1827, this building was visited by a number of gentlemen from different counties, who were members of the committees appointed at meetings of the citizens—and in March, 1827, it was again examined by three of those who have signed this narrative, for the express purpose of re-examination, and to ascertain as far as possible the accuracy of the opinion formed, and the facts stated, by the persons who first visited it for investigation. It was found that one of the floor planks had been broken up; that part of the floor was covered with the loose door mentioned in the affidavit of Mr. Giddins, on which were piled a number of the empty ammunition boxes. The large stock-lock, and the block to which it was nailed were found knocked off and marks on the door showed that they had been forced off by striking on the upper edge of them; this was also evidenced by the bend of the wrought nails, and the appearance of the holes from which the nails had been forced. This lock and block had manifestly been thrown with great force, and very many times, against the door, at the upper corners; and the blows had been so continually repeated that the door was bruised in two places, so as to make it easy to pick splinters from the oak plank, which was done by one of the visitors; a corresponding bruise was found on one corner of the lock and block. Outside of the inner door was found a piece of wide, pine board, one end of which had been recently sawed in an irregular line across to a length which made it reach exactly from under the large handle on the outside of the inner door to the bottom of the stone wall opposite, and when placed in that position it effectually prevented the inner door from being pushed open from the inside, after the lock was forced off. The rust of the sheet iron was found on the edge of the board, and corresponding marks were distinctly observed on the door directly under the handle.

Neither Mr. Giddins or the then keeper could give any account of the manner in which the lock had been taken off, or the bruises on the door, or why the board had been used; and neither of them recollect ever to have noticed these appearances before they were pointed out at that time. Outside of the door, and very near it, was found an

ammunition box, which was seen there in October previous, and the bottom of which was covered almost two inches thick with a substance that two persons, who then saw it, supposed to be human excrements. When seen in March the bottom was clean, but one of the sides was still stained. From these circumstances, the persons who visited the place in March were perfectly satisfied that after Giddins had surrendered the care of the Fort in August, some person had been confined in the magazine, who had made violent and reiterated efforts to force his way out, and that these efforts must have been attended with much noise. How far these appearances will account for the declaration of Barton, made on the fourteenth of September, that there was trouble at the Fort, the reader must conjecture for himself.

Mr. Giddins was distinctly asked by one of the visitors in March, whether he had not, on the night of the 13th of September, seen Bruce and King, and was not called up by them. He declined answering the question, saying that when legally called on he would attest to all he knew. He was then told that his declining to answer so plain a question, left on the mind of the person who asked him the inevitable impression that he *had seen them*, and would probably make the same impression on the minds of others—to which he made no answer or observation.

On the morning of the fourteenth of September a party of ladies and gentlemen went in the steamboat Martha Ogden from Youngstown to Lewiston to attend the installation of a Chapter, which was to take place that day; on board the boat were Bruce, King, Mrs. Giddins, and other ladies. During the voyage one of the ladies familiarly asked Bruce what he meant by going about nights and disturbing people and calling up her husband—"Yes", observed Mrs. Giddins, "they came too and routed up my poor husband."

The certificate of the magistrate, and the affidavit of Mosher were transmitted by the Genesee committee to the Governor, for the purpose of obtaining his proclamation offering a reward for the discovery of Morgan, or his murderers. On the suggestion of his Excellency, a regular complaint was made against Bruce, and laid before him. To obviate the charge, Bruce transmitted to him affidavits impeaching the character of Mosher, and his motives of action, but did not attempt to deny or explain by his own deposition, or that of any other person, the part attributed to him; nor did he produce the deposition of Barton, or Mollineux, or any other person, to show what

was the occasion of the extraordinary course he had pursued.*

First Proclamation of the Governor.

DE WITT CLINTON, Governor of the State of New (L.S.) York, to State officers and ministers of justice in the said State, and particularly in the county of Genesee, and the neighboring counties—*Greeting:*—

WHEREAS, Information, under oath, has been transmitted to me by Theodore F. Talbot, Esquire, and other citizens of the county of Genesee, acting as a Committee in behalf of the people of that county, representing that divers outrages and oppressions have been committed on the rights of persons residing in the village of Batavia, and that disturbances have ensued which are injurious, and may prove destructive to peace and good order in that quarter. Now, therefore, I enjoin it upon you, and each of you, to pursue all proper and efficient measures for the apprehension of the offenders, and the prevention of future outrages. And I do also request the good citizens of this State to co-operate with the civil authorities in maintaining the ascendency of law and good order.

Second Proclamation of the Governor.

WHEREAS, It has been represented to me, that *William Morgan*, who was unlawfully conveyed from the jail of the country of Ontario, some time in the month of September last, has not been found, and that it might have a beneficial effect in restoring him to his family and in promoting the detection and punishment of the perpetrators of this violent outrage, if, in addition to the proceedings heretofore adopted by me, a proclamation was issued offering a specific reward for these purposes:—*Now, therefore*, in order that the offenders may be brought to condign punishment and the violated majesty of the laws thereby effectually vindicated, I do hereby offer in addition to the assurances of compensation heretofore given a reward of Three Hundred Dollars for the discovery of the offenders, and a reward of One Hundred Dollars for the discovery of any and every one of them, to be paid on conviction; and also a further reward of Two Hundred Dollars for authentic information of the place where the said William Morgan has been conveyed; and I do enjoin

* We are officially informed that his Excellency has told the counsel of Bruce that he shall expect a satisfactory account of his proceedings on the 13th and 14th of September, before he pronounces his acquittal.

it upon all sheriffs, magistrates and other officers and ministers of justice to be vigilant and active in the discharge of their duties on this occasion.

IN witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the (L.S.) privy seal, at the city of Albany, this 26th day of October, Anno Domini 1826.

DE WITT CLINTON.

Third Proclamation of the Governor.

WHEREAS, The measure adopted for the discovery of WILLIAM MORGAN, after his unlawful abduction from Canandaigua in September last, have not been attended with success, and whereas many of the good citizens of this State are under an impression, from the lapse of time and other circumstances, that he has been murdered:—Now, therefore, to the end that, if living he may be restored to his family, and if murdered that the perpetrators may be brought to condign punishment, I have thought fit to issue this proclamation, promising a reward of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS for the discovery of the said William Morgan, if alive, and, if murdered, a reward of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS for the discovery of the offender or offenders, to be paid on conviction and on the certificate of the Attorney General, or officer prosecuting on the part of the State, that the person or persons claiming the said last mentioned reward is or are justly entitled to the same under the proclamation. I further promise a free pardon, so far as I am authorized under the constitution of this State, to any accomplice or co-operator who shall make a full discovery of the offender or offenders. And I do enjoin it upon all officers and ministers of justice, and all other persons, to be vigilant and active in bringing to justice the perpetrators of a crime so abhorrent to humanity and so derogatory from the ascendency of law and good order.

IN witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the (L.S.) privy seal, at the city of Albany, this 19th day of March, Anno Domini 1827.

DE WITT CLINTON.

A reverend clergyman, residing in the village of Lewiston, and a member of the Masonic lodge, or society, declared in Batavia to the gentleman at whose house he lodged, while attending the synod in the month of September, 1826, that Morgan had passed through Lewiston on his way to Canada. When requested by a member of the Genesee Committee to give what information he possessed on the subject, he declared that on the morning of the 14th of September, about ten o'clock, he was going to the house where the lodge was to meet, and heard some person in the crowd, assembled in front of the house, say that Morgan had passed on the night before to Canada, but he declined saying, or did not recollect, who had made the assertion.†

The following depositions of Josiah Tryon and Wm. Terry give important evidence, and the letter of Edward McBride shows, at least, how anxious that gentleman is to make the public believe that he is innocent:

State of New York, Niagara County, ss: } JOSIAH TRYON, of said county, being sworn saith, that on the evening of the fourteenth of September last past, he attended a dance or ball at Lewiston there having been on that day a considerable collection of ladies and gentlemen at Lewiston on the occasion of what was called the Installation of a Chapter (so-called); that at the same ball was present a Mr. Elwin Scrantom, a friend of deponent's, who wished to leave town in time to get on board of the steamboat for York (U. C.); and to induce him to remain at the ball, this deponent had promised to take him there, as soon as the ball closed he would start right off with him to Youngstown, that he might be in time for the boat. Accordingly he started from Lewiston with his friend in a one-horse wagon; that the night was clear, and the moon was remarkably bright; that about two miles from Lewiston he met five men walking towards Lewiston, of whom he then distinctly recognized and believed to be Timothy Shaw, Samuel Chubbuck, and General Parkhurst Whitney, who keeps what is called the Eagle Hotel, at the Falls of Niagara, and he has since been informed, and has ascertained to his own perfect satisfaction, that the other two were James L. Barton, of Black Rock, and Noah Beach, of Lewiston. It was, as he thinks, between the hours of three and four of the clock, in the morning of the 15th of said September.—The deponent drew up his horse, and said to one of them, who was a little behind the rest, "*What are you here this time of night for?*"—or words to that purport. He answered, as I think, '*We have had a set-down at Youngstown*',—and passed on. That this deponent mentioned the circum-

† How could such a rport have gotten about in that place a few hours after the mysterious carriage left the front of Barton's house, unless some person knew the fact, or some circumstances were known which created that belief among some of those who had assembled there. Burrage Smith, John Whitney, Loton Lawson, Eli Bruce, were all at Lewiston that day.

stances to others in the village of Lewiston, and the story soon enlarged by report so as to implicate the above-named men in the extraordinary disappearance of William Morgan. And three of them have had conversation with him in relation thereto, and one of them requested him to correct erroneous reports of what he had said. But in none of those conversations did either of them attempt to say where they had spent the night, or how it happened that they were on their way to Lewiston on foot at that time of the morning. He further says, that all of the said men are men having families and following business with ordinary regularity, and of ordinary good habits. He further says, that according to his recollection and belief, none of the above named persons have given to him any explaination of the above circumstances.

JOSIAH TRYON,

Subscribed and sworn to, at Youngstown, Niagara County, the 22nd, of March, 1827, before me,

A. G. HINMAN, J. P.

State of New York, Niagara County, ss: } WILLIAM TERRY, of Niagara, Province Upper Canada, druggist, being duly sworn, doth depose and say—that in the month of September or October last, this deponent was in ill-health, and confined to his dwelling, and had been so sometime—that about this time a neighbor of this deponent informed him that a man had engaged, in some part of the State of New York, in publishing a book concerning Masonry, or disclosing the secrets of Masonry, or words to that effect—this deponent does not recollect the name mentioned at this time by his informant, but has now no doubt that it related to the abduction of William Morgan; this deponent was further informed at the same time, by the same persons, that the person so taken and carried away had been killed, and sunk in Lake Ontario—this deponent's informant was of the fraternity of Freemasons, as is also this deponent, which this deponent believes was the reason why this story was related to him—that this deponent at the time disbelieved the facts related, and told his informant that it could not be possible, but was assured it was a fact, and said he (the informant) would relate more about it at another time. Some few weeks afterwards, when this deponent was recovering, the same informant added, or further related, that Morgan had been brought to Fort Niagara, or to the other side of the river, opposite this (meaning the town of Niagara), and was there put to death; this deponent again expressed doubts of the truth

of the relation, and expressed himself in warm terms of disapprobation—denying the right of the society of Masons, or any members of the fraternity, to commit such a deed—the relator was, however, of a different opinion, and said it was right.

Some time in the month of December last, this deponent was further informed by another member of the society aforesaid, who also resides in the same town with this deponent, that Morgan had been taken at Batavia, was brought to Fort Niagara, and from thence to the town of Niagara, and was taken before another Mason of the same place—that the Masons in Canada refused to receive Morgan, or to have anything to do with him—and that Morgan was returned to Fort Niagara—that after Morgan was tried by some sort of council or tribunal, which sentenced him to death—that he was executed by having his throat cut; his tongue was torn out, and buried in the sands of the lakes or lake; and that his body was also sunk in the lake or deep water opposite, off from, or near the Fort—which is as near the substance of what was said as this deponent can recollect. The relator further added that Morgan did not know where he was—that he was blinded—that the boat was rowed about the river for the purpose of deranging the man—that while at Fort Niagara Morgan asked permission of a Bible, and a short time in the light, in order that he might peruse it. This deponent asked what was the result of the request; to which the relator added that he was soon despatched. This deponent asked how those who had been engaged in the affair felt about it—the relator observed that they felt bad, and some had expressed so much contrition as to say that they would have given all they were worth if the affair had not happened, or if Morgan could be produced again—and this deponent further saith, that the relator added that one of the persons concerned was sick, and delirious, in consequence of it, and had to have watches, according to the best belief of this deponent—further, the relator, stated that those engaged at Canandaigua, and there indicted, were to be kept harmless by the General Grand Chapter of the State of New York, and that all expense requiste to pay any fines that might be imposed was to be defrayed by the said Chapter; and that the actors in the affair of the abduction of Morgan so acted in obedience to the order (or by the consent or knowledge,) or directions of the said Grand Chapter. The relator also stated that it was the intention of those who had Morgan to have taken Miller also; this deponent, at the time he

heard the last relation, did believe the substantial part of it, and still does most firmly believe it.

This deponent further saith—that another member of the Masonic society also related the same facts, substantially and said he derived his information from a gentleman of Buffalo, (a Mason) now deceased. This latter part is intended to be restricted to the fact of the death of Morgan, and the place of depositing the body. This deponent further saith—that the foregoing was prepared and signed (though not sworn to) some time since; subsequent to that period further information has been received by this deponent, which has induced him to believe that the manner of putting Morgan to death was different from the relation of *Stocking*.

WILLIAM TERRY.

Sworn before me, at Niagara, Upper Canada, this twentieth day of March, 1827.

J. B. CLENCH, J. P.

NIAGARA, U. C., March 3, 1827.

GENTLEMEN:—On my return from my Parliamentary duties at York, I observed in the Albany Observer a letter dated "Lewiston, N. Y., Jan. 12th, 1827,—in which I perceived some indirect allusions to the name of 'M'..... a member of Parliament," to whose house, it is stated, a William Morgan of Batavia was brought, "blindfolded and tied."

Now, gentlemen, I beg leave to declare through the medium of your paper, to your readers and to the world at large, that no such occurrence ever took place—that on the night of the 14th of September, 1826, nor at any other time, was Morgan in my house to my knowledge. And I further declare the said Morgan is to me an utter stranger, except as to report; and I never exchanged a word with the man in my life, and would not know him from the greatest stranger in existence.

In justice to my own reputation, as well as that of my family and friends, I hereby most solemnly assert the whole statement to be utterly false and unfounded. And further, that I never conversed with the brother of..... (Stocking) of Buffalo, on the affair of Morgan, as to his abduction, till after the appearance of the letters alluded to, in that paper, when I called on him for that purpose, and he then most explicitly declared that he had never given me as his author to Dr....., and admitted that I never had the slightest conversation with him on the subject previous. I could add to the foregoing declarations

and assertions my own affidavit, if necessary, as well as that of my family, consisting of three persons, and a worthy and respectable gentleman and lady, who slept that night at my house. I cannot refrain from expressing my belief before I close this letter, that *malice, envy* and foul *revenge* are at the bottom of the heart of him, whoever he may be, that would thus villainously attempt to assassinate the character of any man in society. I mean to cast no reflection on the characters of the gentlemen who formed the committee of vigilance, but on him to whom it justly belongs. *And from declarations made, even on the* BED OF DEATH, *that he, the Dr....., would be revenged of me, for assisting to destroy a den of rogues and coiners, with whom he was implicated, has been his only inducement thus to do.*

As, gentlemen, I am the only member of Parliament residing in Niagara whose name commences with the letter M, I have come to the conclusion that I am particularly referred to, and beg you will insert in your paper this refutation of the infamous and foul charges.

I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

EDWARD M'BRIDE, M. P. P.

On the night of the 14th of September, 1826, nine persons ordered supper at the house of Mr. Giddins, five of whom were know to him. They all left his house at about eleven o'clock at night, and he could not tell where they had spent the rest of the night; they did not lodge, and were not seen, that night at either of the taverns in the village of Youngstown. The next morning before day light, and between the hours of three and four o'clock, four of the five men designated by Giddins, and another man, were seen by Josiah Tryon, traveling on foot about two miles from Lewiston, and about five miles from the house of Giddings, walking toward Lewiston, where three of them resided; one of the other two resided at the falls of Niagara, and one at Black Rock.

On the afternoon of September 14th, Samuel Barton told Mosher, who was then in his employment, to borrow a saddle and bridle, and put them on a horse as soon as possible and hitch him beside another horse, then standing under the shed. He did as directed, and found that the latter horse appeared to have been ridden very fast. Barton said to Mosher that "he had heard from the Fort, and must send a man down, for he was afraid there would be trouble yet." The two horses were ridden off the same afternoon—one by a Mason resident at Lewiston—the

other by a person whom he did not know. Next morning Mosher asked Barton if there was any trouble at the Fort, to which Barton answered, "I guess it is still enough now."

It is known to many persons, that in a letter written by one of the gentlemen who visited Niagara in January last it was stated that Morgan had been taken to the house of a member of Parliament residing in the village of Newark, or Niagara, in Upper Canada. This assertion was erroneous, and it occurred in part from haste, or want of care, in writting a confidential letter, and in part from misapprehension of the information given by William Terry of that place, who had received his information from one Stocking, a respectable hatter living in that town. The information intended to be given by Mr. Terry will be seen by reading his deposition. The Mason before whom Morgan was said to have been taken is now understood to have been a Mr. M'Bride, a member of the Provincial Parliament. His letter, purporting to be a contradiction or denial of the facts stated in the letter first mentioned, has been given. Since the publication of these letters, M'Bride and Stocking called upon Mr. Terry, in company of Dr. Chapin, and in presence of a large number of respectable inhabitants of Niagara, for the purpose of explanation. At this meeting Terry distinctly declared, "Stocking, you said that M'Bride saw the man—that he was here on this side of the water—and he saw him." Stocking then acknowledged that he had named McBride. M'Bride appeared to drop his head and eyes, and said, "he did not see what right any man under Heavens had to say that," but did not deny that he said anything of the kind to Stocking, nor declare in any other way that he had not seen Morgan, or that he knew nothing of the transaction. We have been informed by those whose veracity we have no reason to question, that the worthy and respectable gentleman alluded to in the letter of M'Bride, as having slept that night at his house, has distinctly declared that late in the night alluded to, McBride was called up by a loud rap on the door, which awoke the lodgers, who, with his wife arose from bed, and looked out the window. They saw two men near the house; M'Bride dressed himsel, and went away with them, and was gone about half an hour, perhaps more—that on the next morning he did not mention or explain the circumstance.

That after M'Bride had prepared his letter, and before its publication he submitted it to the perusal of the same gentleman to whom he alluded; after looking it over, his friend observed in substance to McBride, "Your letter does

not amount to a full denial—you do not say you did not see Morgan." M'Bride replied, intimating that it was full enough.

It will be readily perceived that the assertions of McBride in his letter, "that Morgan was not, on the night of the 14th of September, 1826, at his *house*—that Morgan is to him an utter stranger—that he never exchanged a word with him in his life—and would not know him from the greatest stranger in existence"—may all be perfectly true, and yet are perfectly reconcilable with the facts that Morgan was taken to the British side of the river, and was seen by McBride; and his omission to declare in his letter, (and that, too, after the observation of his friend,) and before Mr. Terry and his townsman, that he never saw Morgan, and had no knowledge of his abduction on the night of the 13th of September, (not the 14th,) or any other night, or day, or was applied to to assist in disposing of him, like the silence of Giddins amounts to very strong presumptive proof that, in fact, he did on the night of the 13th of September, or morning of the 14th, have an interview with some persons who he knew had Morgan under their control, and, in fact, that he did see him.

About the first of November, and before the publication of the Governor's first proclamation offering a reward for the discovery of Morgan and the conviction of his kidnappers, and before serious apprehensions of his murder were entertained, and before any investigations had been made along the ridge road, a respectable inhabitant of Niagara county, Sylvester R. Hathaway, called upon a member of Genesee Committee, whom he met at Lockport, and informed him "that he had been for some time past working on the Welland Canal—that a friend who resided in Canada, near the canal, had a few days before called on him, and exacted a promise from him to go to Batavia and communicate to the Committee that Morgan had been taken to Fort Niagara in the night, put into the Fort, and detained there three or four days—that they tried to get the Masons on the Canada side to take him, but they refused—that afterwards two ruffians had taken him out and cut his throat and tied his body to a rope and stone and threw it into the lake—that he had been told so by Masons, of which society he was a member, and that he conscientiously believed it—that his name must not be used, or given in, for if it was known that he had informed he should fare no better." The messenger assured us that his informant was a grave, re-

spectable man, of the Society of Friends, and not inclined to confide in or to repeat idle tales or improbable stories. This communication was not made known even to the other members of the Committees, nor any other person, excepting the Governor of the State, until some time after the examination took place in January, and after two other accounts were distinctly stated to us from other sources, which did not differ from it in any essential particulars.

A physician residing at or near Niagara, U. C., informed one of his friends that during the sitting of the court of that Province in September, a person called on him at the court house, and requested him to attend as one of the counsel on Morgan—he said to his friend, "I did not go, and I am glad of it; for if I had gone I should have gotten into a d——d pretty scrape, for they murdered Morgan afterwards." This communication was obtained in writting, in March, 1827, from the physician's friend, who is a professional gentleman of high standing at Niagara.

The following depositions of John K. Larkin, John Southworth & Luther Wilder, Elias Wilder and Lyman D. Prindle give clear evidence of the complicity of a large number of Masons, in the crime of the abduction and murder of Wm. Morgan, and whatever action the Grand Lodge may have taken it is certain that no measures were taken by it to prevent the outrages, or since they were committed to bring the guilty to justice, both of which it might have done.

State of New York, } JOHN K. LARKIN, of the town of
Genesee County, ss: } Byron, in the said county, being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that on the morning that William Morgan was carried off from the village of Batavia, he, this deponent, went to Andrew Adams to borrow a saddle; before the said deponent had got far off, said Adams called to him and said he must have his saddle, for he, Adams, was notified to attend a special meeting of the Masons at LeRoy, at 10 o'clock same morning—Adams also understood to be a Freemason. And this deponent asked Dr. Taylor what the fuss was, to which Dr. Taylor replied, they, the Masons, had orders from the Grand Lodge to notify a special meeting. And this deponent further saith not.

JOHN K. LARKIN.

Subscribed and sworn to this ninth day of March, 1827, before me, ANDREW DIBBLE, J. P.

State of New York, } JOHN SOUTHWORTH AND LU-
Genesee County, ss: } THER WILDER, of the town of Byron, in said county, being duly sworn depose and say, that some time after the abduction of William Morgan from the village of Batavia, in the month of September last, they, the deponents, with others, had a conversation with Dr. Samuel Taggart of said town, who is reputed and understood to be a Freemason, about the carrying off said Morgan, in which Dr. Taggart said there had been a rumpus at Batavia, that Morgan was taken away and Miller's office (meaning as the deponents understood, the printing office of David C. Miller, a printer in Batavia,) had been set on fire; and on some person present saying he had not heard anything of the affair, Dr. Taggart said he had known it for a length of time. Dr. Taggart further stated that he should not be afraid to bet a thousand dollars that Morgan was not in the land of the living; that he had taken a voyage on Lake Ontario without float or boat and would never be seen again by any human being. And further say not.

JOHN SOUTHWORTH,
LUTHER WILDER.

Subscribed and sworn to this ninth day of March, 1827, before me, ANDREW DIBBLE, J. P.

State of New York, } ELIAS WILDER, of the town of
Genesee County, ss: } Elba, in said county, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that about two or three weeks before William Morgan was carried from Batavia, he, this deponent, had a conversation with one Cyrus Grout, whom this deponent understands, and verily believes, to be a Freemason, on the subject of said Morgan's attempt to publish the secrets of Masonry; and that the said Cyrus Grout told this deponent that the Masons had sent to the Grand Lodge, for instructions, and when they got word from them, (meaning the said Grand Lodge, as this deponent understood,) there would be something done. And this deponent further saith, that after the abduction of said Morgan, he, this deponent, had another conversation with said Cyrus Grout, and others, on the subject of what had become of said Morgan, and Grout said he, Morgan, was gone a fishing on the Niagara River of Lake Ontario. And further saith not.

ELIAS WILDER.

Subscribed and sworn to, this ninth day of March, 1827, before me, ANDREW DIBBLE, J. P.

Genesee County, ss: } LYMAN D. PRINDLE, being duly sworn saith, that on the fourth day of October last he met with James Ganson at Rochester, who beckoned to him to come to him, Ganson; he entered into conversation with him, this deponent, relating to the disturbances at Batavia about the taking away of William Morgan. This deponent expressed his opinion that he could have rescued Morgan if he had known it. Ganson said, "Let me tell you, you know nothing about it; suppose there had been carriages ready at every road leading into Canandaigua ready to receive Morgan, in case he had been pursued, he could have been shifted; and let me tell you it was the case, or let me tell you it is likely that was case; let me tell you, if you could hang, draw and quarter, or gibbet the Masons, them that has had a hand in it, it would not fetch Morgan back. He is not dead, but he is put where he will stay put until God Almighty calls for him;" And further saith not.

LYMAN D. PRINDLE.

Sworn the 11th day of October, 1826, before me,
C. C. CARPENTER, J. P.

Let the reader connect the various accounts received from distinct and entirely separate quarters, and persons, with the corresponding and authenticated facts detailed in this Narrative, and form, if he can, any other conclusion than that which both parties of the visitors to Niagara for examination did form, and do not hesitate to declare, to-wit: that the persons who had Morgan under their conduct at Lewiston and Youngstown on the night of September the 13th, 1826, took him over the Niagara river—that some persons on that side knew he was brought over, and had an interview with his conductors—that he was taken back and confined in the magazine at Fort Niagara—and that a court or council of some kind was held on him under pretext of Masonic authority. Those of us who did make investigations at that place in January and March. think that no person of common candor, whose mind is not blinded by prejudice or under the influence of strong delusion, can visit there and examine for himself without forming similar conclusions.

But, again, it will be seen by the reader that at the court of Oyer and Terminer, held at Canandaigua in January, 1827, before Judge Throop, Lawson, Sawyer and Chesebro withdrew their pleas of not guilty, which they had at a previous court interposed, and plead guilty, and that Sheldon was convicted after a trial. The indictments

against all these men charged them with having kidnapped William Morgan and taken him out of the State of New York, and out of the United States, and to PLACES UNKNOWN. They were, beyond any doubt, informed by the able counselors who defended them, that the uncertainty as to Morgan's fate, and the probability of his having been murdered would greatly enhance their punishment, unless they could show that they had not participated in the murder of their victim, or been concerned in the latter part of the transaction. Three of them, Sawyer, Chesebro and Sheldon, accordingly produced their depositions to show how far they had acted. If these depositions can be relied upon, both Chesebro and Sawyer, by their confession of guilty to the charges contained in the indictments, voluntarily exposed themselves to punishment for the most heinous part of the crime alleged against them, when, in fact, they had not participated in that part of the crime charged. The court, however, seem to have given credit to their depositions, and apportioned their punishment accordingly. But Lawson, it will be seen, gave no account whatever of the part he had performed, and left the court and the public at liberty to form no other opinion than *"That he had been guilty of all that the indictment charged on him;"* and gave them not even his naked assertion to show *"that Morgan had not been immolated as a victim to their rage, or was then in the land of the living."* We know that he was at Lewiston and Youngstown late in the night of the fourteenth of September; and that on his return he stopped at Wright's tavern, and left a message for a relation who then resided a short distance from that place.

The following charge of Judge Throop, on sentencing the prisoners, shows clearly the guilt of Loton Lawson and the complicity of the others in the crime, and it will be seen that Lawson in his deposition does not deny his guilt.

The following is the address of Judge Throop, upon his sentencing the prisoners:—

You have been convicted of a daring, wicked and presumptuous crime—such an one as we did hope would not in our day have polluted this land. You have robbed the State of a citizen, a citizen of his liberty, a wife of her husband, and a family of helpless children of the endearments and protecting care of a parent. And whether the unfortunate victim of your rage has been immolated, or is in the land of the living, we are ignorant, and even you do not pretend to know. It is admitted in this case, and

stands proved, that Morgan was, by a hypocritical pretense of friendship and charity, and that, too, in the imposing shape of pecuniary relief to a distressed and poverty-bound prisoner, beguiled to entrust himself to one of your number, who seized him, as soon as a confederate arrived to his aid, almost at his prison door, and in the night time hurried him into a carriage, and forcibly transported him out of the State. But great as are the individual wrongs which you have inflicted on these helpless and wretched human beings, they are not the heaviest part of your crime. You have disturbed the public peace—you have dared to raise your parricidal arms against the laws and constitution of your government—you have assumed a power which is incompatible with a due subordination to the laws and public authority of your State. He was a citizen under the protection of our laws; you were citizens and owed obedience to them. What hardihood and wickedness then prompted you to steel your hearts against the claims of humanity, and to dare set at defiance those laws to which you owed submission, and which cannot suffer a citizen's liberty to be restrained with impunity, without violating its duties of protection, assured to every individual under the social compact? Will you plead ignorance? Some of you, at least, have had the advantage of education, and moral instruction, and hold respectable and responsible stations in society; and all of you have learned, what every school boy in this happy land, this free and intelligent community knows, that the unrestrained enjoyment of life, liberty and property is guaranteed to every individual living obediently under our laws. Our constitution shows it; and the declaration of our independence declares, that the unmolested enjoyment of liberty and the pursuit of happiness are the unalienable rights of man. So sacred do we hold personal liberty, that even the impressment of a seaman from one of our ships has been considered a sufficient cause for national war. Man here is not like men in other countries, a submissive vassal, but every citizen is a sovereign; and I am happy to say that here he possesses that intelligence and high sense of feeling which befits his elevated station. Our laws will resent such attacks as you have made upon their sovereignty. Your conduct has created, in the people of this section of the country, a strong feeling of virtuous indignation. The court rejoices to witness it—to be made sure that a citizen's person cannot be invaded by lawless violence, without its being felt by every individual in the community. It is a

blessed spirit, and we do hope that it will not subside—that it will be accompanied by a ceaseless vigilence, and untiring activity, until every actor in this profligate conspiracy is hunted from his hiding place, and brought before the tribunals of the country, to receive the punishment merited by his crime. We think that we see in this public sensation the spirit which brought us into existence as a nation, and a pledge that our rights and liberties are destined to endure. But this is not all; your offence was not the result of passion suddenly excited, nor the deed of one individual. It was preconcerted, deliberated upon, and carried into effect by the dictates of the secret councils and conclave of many actors. It takes its deepest hues of guilt from a conspiracy—a crime most dreaded, from the depravity of heart it evinces, the power for unlawful purposes which it combines, and from its ability to defy the power of the law, and ultimate danger to the public peace. Hence it is that the crime is considered full, when the wicked purpose is proved to have been formed; and the subsequent carrying into effect the object of the conspiracy does not, in the eye of the law, elevate the degree of the crime.

The Legislature have not seen fit, perhaps from the supposed improbability that the crime would be attempted, to make your offence a felony. Its grade and punishment has been left to the provisions of the common law, which treats it as a misdemeanor, and punishes it with fine and imprisonment in the common jail. The courts are of opinion that your liberty ought to be made to answer for the liberty of Morgan; his person was restrained by force; and the court, in the exercise of its lawful powers, ought not to be more tender of your liberty, than you, in the plentitude of lawless force, were of his.

With regard to you, *Lawson*—it appeared in proof that you were an active agent in this affair—you went forward and took this man from the jail, and delivered him over to those who stood waiting with a carriage to receive him. Whether you accompanied that carriage or not, is not in proof; but in your excusatory affidavit you say nothing about it, leaving it to fair inference that you did accompany him in that carriage. There is nothing, either in your affidavit, or your proof to the court, which does much to mitigate your offence, except so far as they show that your poverty has not been accompanied by idleness, and your character has not been stained by other transgressions. Under all the circumstances of your case, the court feel it their duty to sentence you to two years im-

prisonment in the common jail of this county.

As to you, *Chesebro*—it appears by your affidavit that you did not lay your hands upon this man to carry into effect the conspiracy; and it appears by unquestionable proof that you did not leave this village with the carriage. But you admit, at least tacitly, in your affidavit, that you were one of the conspirators; and your language to the jailer, when he called upon you the next day to account for your conduct, and warned you that the public would demand an explanation, showed an unsubdued spirit. It has been satisfactorily proved to us that you are a thriving mechanic—that you have a respectable standing in the community, and up to the period of this transaction your character for industry, honesty, quiet and moral deportment, was without reproach. Under the circumstances of your case, the court sentence you to one year imprisonment in the common jail of this county.

As to you, *Sawyer*—your affidavit, which, from the uniform good character you have proved, we fully believe to be true, states that you had no knowledge of this conspiracy, and took no active part in it. But your accompanying Lawson, at his request, to the jail, to inform the jailer's wife that she would be safe in receiving the amount of Morgan's debt from Lawson, and letting him go, with the other circumstances, were sufficient to have convicted you, if you had stood trial, and you acted wisely in pleading guilty. You state that you had no idea that he was under restraint until you saw him enter the carriage a short distance from you, and that you did not suspect that he was forced into it, until in the progress of your walk you picked up his hat—that you were then surprised and confounded, and did not therefore give the alarm—but you spent the rest of the evening at a public house, and gave no intimation of what you had seen. This then was your offence:—You should have given the alarm—you should have raised the hue and cry, and endeavored to effect a rescue. You, however, expressed in your affidavit, and have always evinced a feeling of remorse. The court therefore sentence you to one month imprisonment in the common jail of this county.

As to you, *Sheldon*—you denied any participation in the conspiracy, and put yourself upon trial. As to all the acts proved against you, there was mystery, and I doubt whether you were the man. You were at the time confined on the limits of the jail; you were most strongly identified in an appearance at Batavia, and although your proof of an *alibi* was not complete, there was much

in it to shake our faith in the fact that you were the mysterious stranger whom the witness saw. Your confessions of guilt, however, were clear and indisputable, and fully warranted the verdict; and the only explanation of them you offered, was the ungracious one, that your confessions were the vain-glorious boastings of a drunkard and a liar. Taking all things into consideration, the court have adjudged you to three months imprisonment in the common jail of the county.

Ontario County, ss: } LOTON LAWSON, being duly sworn, says that he has no knowledge of any agency of participation by John Sheldon in the matter or acts charged in the foregoing entitled indictment; that he never had any conversation with him in relation thereto, before said Sheldon was arrested on said charge, that he does not know, or believe, that said John Sheldon was at Batavia in the month of September last.

Sworn this sixth day of January, 1827, before me,
JEFFREY CHIPMAN, Commissioner, &c.

If Lawson had dared to depose that he had handed Morgan over to the care or custody of other persons, of whose subsequent actions he (Lawson) had no knowledge, (as Chesebro had done,) that he had voluntarily absented himself, (as Sawyer pretended to think,) that he had left him well, and knew not where he had gone, that he was then residing at any place, or that he was then alive, can it be believed that he would not have offered such a deposition, and thus entitled himself to the lenity of the court, from which Chesebro and Sawyer reaped such substantial fruits? Did not these men, who were so anxious to reduce the measure of their punishment, and so well informed as to the mode of effecting that object—did not they (unless they knew that Morgan was dead) importune Lawson to depose to that effect in their behalf, even if he was indifferent about exonerating himself from the crime of being accessory (at least) to murder, which he must have known his silence could not fail to make the community impute to him? Nay, would they not have all gladly given to the court, and to their fellow citizens, any evidence in their power to have shown that Morgan was PROBABLY alive, or that none of them had been concerned in his death? If Morgan was then living, could not Lawson have given a clue by which to trace him? If no motive whatever, neither the desire to serve his associates in guilt, nor the wish to diminish the measure of his own punishment, nor a decent regard to the opinion of his fellow citizens, and the feelings of his family, could induce

him to venture on a declaration, under oath, that Morgan was then alive, or might be for aught he knew, who can doubt that he knew of his death? If he chose to sit down quietly under such overwhelming suspicions of his being an accessory to murder, who can suppose that Morgan was then living?

We have now laid before our fellow citizens the detail, or report, which has been so often called for. If it has not been as interesting as they have been led to expect, they must remember that we did not undertake to gratify curiosity, or give our own speculations. We have given, as we promised, "A Narrative of facts and circumstances," relating to transactions which have excited the earnest attention of the community. Those facts and circumstances are evidenced by the depositions of credible witnesses, or vouched for by the distinct allegations (most of them in writing) of men entitled to our entire confidence for veracity and integrity, to whom we can resort for legal proof, if called for. Whether the conclusions which we have drawn are the legitimate results of those facts and circumstances, our readers must of course decide for themselves. Let them recollect that our exertions (which have not been feeble ones) to trace Morgan beyond Fort Niagara have been unavailing—that the pecuniary rewards offered by the Governor of the State of New York, and Governor of Upper Canada, have not elicited the slightest information on the subject—that the Governor's office of pardon, promised in his proclamation, at our request, has produced no effect—that no attempt has been made, that we know of, by those so directly implicated to explain or deny the extraordinary conduct and occurrences which have fastened such strong and well-founded suspicions upon them—that they have thus long set public opinion at defiance, and relinquished their claim to the good opinion of their fellow citizens without a struggle to retain it—that five of them have absconded, viz.: James Gillis, Joseph Scofield, Burrage Smith, John Whitney and Richard Howard— that others have absented themselves from their families, and the State, and continue absent, with a full knowledge of the suspicions which rest upon them—that many of the witnesses have suddenly disappeared, and cannot be traced—that two of those who were called as witnesses before the Grand Jury of Monroe county, at Rochester, to wit: Edward Doyle, merchant, and Simon B. Jewet, Attorney at Law, refused to testify, because, as they alleged, *they could not do so truly without criminating themselves*—that others have related stories on oath which are utterly incredible—and what inference can be drawn from all this but that Morgan has been murdered, and that great numbers of men, heretofore respectable, have been accessories to his murder? Whether ALL who were concerned in his kidnapping have been accessories, or consented to his death, we undertake not to decide; but, whatever were the *original designs or motives* of those who were concerned in his disappearance, all of them who have not fully, frankly, and promptly explained the part they are known to have performed, have, we think, no right to complain if their fellow citizens in general regard them as accessories to the murder of William Morgan, and shall hereafter treat them accordingly.

COMMITTEES.

T. F. TALBOT, TRUMBULL CARY, TIMOTHY FITCH, JAMES P. SMITH, LYMAN D. PRINDLE, ELEAZER SOUTHWORTH, WILLIAM KEYES, JONATHAN LAY, WILLIAM DAVIS, HINMAN HOLDEN,	Genesee Committee.
JOSIAH BISSELL, JR. F. F. BACKUS, HERMAN NORTON, THURLOW WEED, SAMUEL WORKS, FRED'CK WHITTLESEY,	Rochester Committee.
SAMUEL RAWSON, ELIJAH SEDGWICK, SAMUEL EWING, NATHAN JENKS, JAMES M. WHEELER, THOMAS WRIGHT, JOHN SARGEANT,	Victor Committee.
ISAAC LACY, WILLIAM PIXLEY, BENJAMIN BOWEN, SAMUEL LACY,	Chili Committee.

JOHN GARBUT, TRUMAN EDSON, CLARK HALL.	Wheatland Committee.
RALPH WILCOX, HEMAN CHAPIN, BANI BRADLEY, JOSIAH PORTER, ORSON BENJAMIN, JONATHAN BUELL.	Bloomfield Committee.
BATES COOK, JOHN PHILIPS.	Lewiston Committee.

POSTSCRIPT.

We had long expected to receive a statement, or deposition, from an eye witness, which, we had good reason to suppose, would put an end to all conjectures as to the course that had been pursued in disposing of William Morgan after his arrival at Fort Niagara. After the Narrative had been put to the press, we received the following statement, made to two members of one of the committees by a credible witness, a man of good character and standing, a Royal Arch Mason, as from his own knowledge, but who has as yet declined giving his deposition, because he has been called upon as a witness, and expects to testify in court his knowledge of the matter. The statement is as follows:—

"After Morgan left the carriage at the grave-yard he was taken to the bottom of the hill at the Fort. The ferryman was called up by those who had the charge of him. Here Morgan received some water, which he had called for in front of Col. King's at Youngstown. When taken to the boat he was supported by two men; he was pinioned and hoodwinked; he was placed in the boat and carried to the Canada shore. On reaching that shore two of the keepers left the boat—Morgan and two others remained on the beach while they (i. e. the two first) went into the town. Those who were left with the boat were directed to leave the shore in the boat if any person should approach it without giving a signal which had been agreed upon. There was, however, no intrusion. The two who had gone into the town returned after an absence which might have been one and a half or two hours. The time of their absence seemed long to the informant, who waited with the boat. Two other persons came to the shore with them on their return: they came near the boat, and held a consultation in a low tone of voice, which the informant did not hear: when it broke up all who had crossed from the United States' shore returned in the boat to the Fort. Morgan, as before, was supported from the shore by two men, taken into the Fort, and put into the magazine. This place had been fixed upon one or two

days previous as one where Morgan could be lodged in case of necessity. This took place in the morning of the fourteenth of September.

During that day Morgan made much noise—and in the course of the day two messengers were sent to Lewiston, where a Chapter was that day installed, to procure aid to silence the noise. Some persons came down to the Fort from Lewiston, and produced stillness. On the evening of the 14th of September twenty or thirty persons came to the Fort in the steam-boat, or otherwise, all of whom soon disappeared excepting about eleven; after a time several of those last went away.

During the night several persons were together in the vicinity of the Fort, among whom the fate or disposition of Morgan was discussed. This discussion ended some time after midnight, and nothing was decided upon. The next evening a small number debated the same subject with great animation, but came to no decision. Morgan was still in the magazine on the seventeenth, when our informant left the place and did not return until the twenty-first day of the same month, when he found that Morgan had been disposed of. Those who had Morgan in their custody, when he left the place, gave him on his return to understand that Morgan had been put to death. That the interior of the magazine was put in order, and, as our informant was told, had been examined by one or more persons from Lewiston, who visited the Fort for that purpose, and all things were pronounced to be in order—that the walls were closely looked over to see if Morgan had left any writings upon them—after all which a man, or perhaps two, were requested to traverse the shore of the lake to see if any body should float ashore."

A SUPPLEMENTARY

REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO ASCERTAIN

THE FATE OF

CAPT. WM. MORGAN

ROCHESTER
PRINTED FOR THE COMMITTEE
BY EDWIN SCRANTON
1827

TO THE PUBLIC.

The remains of WILLIAM MORGAN having been finally found and identified, the Committee lose no time in relieving the public anxiety, by submitting a history of all the facts and circumstances connected with this unexpected and extraordinary discovery.

On Monday the 7th inst., two men of the name of Potter, (father and son) of Bergen, Genesee county, and Stilman Hoxsie, of Carlton, Orleans county, discovered a dead body upon the beach of Lake Ontario, a few rods east of the mouth of Oak Orchard creek, which, from the color of the face, they supposed to be a negro. Information was immediately given to Robert M. Brown, who summoned an inquest, but from the thinness of the inhabitants about there, it was late in the evening before the jurors got together. Nothing appeared in the examination of the body and clothes, or from testimony, by which the person could be identified, and the jurors found that it was "*the body of an unknown man, who came to his death by suffocation by drowning.*" The body was then decently interred, near the spot where it was found. Rumors were circulating for three or four days, that a body resembling Morgan's had been found at Oak Orchard, but no importance was attached to it, until Friday evening, the 12th inst., when we received the Orleans Whig, containing the following report of the Coroner:

CORONER'S REPORT.

A Coroner's inquest was held on the 7th inst. over the body of a man unknown, on the lake shore near the mouth of the Oak Orchard creek in Carlton, Orleans county. Verdict of the jury, *Suffocation by dorwning.* The body was discovered at the margin of the water, probably thrown on shore by the surf. The body being in so putrid a state it would be difficult to give a very minute description of it; it appeared, however, to be the body of a man about forty-five or fifty years of age, about 5 feet 8 inches in height, hair about the ears considerably gray.

There was apparently an old scar on the forehead, over the right eye—teeth sound, excepting two missing on the lower jaw—a set of what is generally termed double teeth in front. His clothing was a frock coat, of black broad-

cloth, of a good quality—pantaloons and vest apparently the same. A white homespun flannel shirt—flag handkerchief around his neck—an almost new pair of cowhide shoes, and coarse socks. No papers were found about him to give any light: all that was found in his pockets were simply four religious tracts printed in London—a scrap of paper on which was written, September 24th, 1828—Mr. James Websa, and two plugs of tobacco.

Carlton, Oct. 8th, 1827. R. M. BROWN, Cor.

So many points of resemblance to Morgan were recognized in this description, that the Committee was called together, and some gentlemen in the village intimately acquainted with Capt. Morgan, sent for. Doc. Ezra Strong found by referring to his book that he had extracted two teeth for Morgan, and recollected distinctly that his teeth corresponded with those described in the Coroner's report. Mr. Russell Dyer recollected the singularity of Morgan's teeth, having frequently observed them. He stated, however, distinctly, that the teeth were missing from Morgan's upper instead of the lower jaw. He also stated positively, that Morgan had a broken tooth adjoining the vacancy in the upper jaw, near the corner of the mouth. Mr. Dyer was so confident about the teeth, as to declare that if the report of the Coroner was correct, the body found could not be Morgan's.

The height, age, and coincidence of double teeth all round, however, seemed to require an investigation, and the Committee immediately despatched Messrs. Weed and Marchant to the spot where the body was found, and Mr. Dyer went express to Batavia for Mrs. Morgan, and other persons who knew him.

On the way from Gaines to the lake, Messrs. Weed and Marchant met several of the citizens who were upon the Coroner's inquest, from whom they ascertained that great anxiety prevailed throughout the town to have a further examination of the body—that they had taken considerable pains to obtain information and excite enquiry abroad, but that nothing had been done. Mr. Brown, the Coroner, proceeded with them to the lake, and several citizens soon assembled, who assisted in preparing for an examination. In the afternoon, Messrs. Fitch, Holden and Gibbs, of Batavia, with R. Dyer of Rochester, arrived. The recollections of these gentlemen about the person of Capt. Morgan were stated before the body was disinterred. The peculiarities recollected by these gentlemen related to the teeth and hair of Morgan. Mr. Fitch's recollection about his hair was full and distinct. R. Dyer repeated his statement about the absent and broken teeth in the upper jaw.

The body was then taken from the grave for examination. It was much bloated and discolored, but the flesh was unbroken. The head, except the face, appeared natural. The hair, of which there was a profusion on the back of the head, in the neck and on the chest, dropped out upon touching it. The nails of the fingers and feet were loose. The hair corresponded minutely with the description of Mr. Fitch and the absent and broken teeth were found PRECISELY as stated by Mr. Dyer. Long white hairs described in Morgan's ears by T. Fitch were not found so thick as he had represented, but upon examination a mass of matted hair of that description was found deposited in the bottom of the ear. After a careful examination, Messrs, Dyer, Fitch and Gibbs gave an unequivocal opinion, that it was the dead body of WILLIAM MORGAN. Mr. Holden's recollections of Morgan were not as distinct as the other gentlemen, but he was confident that the resemblance of the head and hair was very striking.

Under these circumstances, it became proper to institute further investigations, and to identify the remains legally. Mr. Brown and Esq. Byington procured three trusty men to protect the remains until MRS. MORGAN and other persons could get there. The gentlemen from Rochester and Batavia returned home, and notice was given to gentlemen at Lewiston, Lockport, and other places, that an examination would be had on Monday the 15th inst.

The inhabitants who reside on that shore state, that within the last 15 years seven bodies, drowned in the Niagara river, have drifted ashore within three or four miles of the mouth of Oak Orchard creek. Col. Howell states that while he was one of the coroners of the county, he held four inquests upon bodies identified to have been lost in the Niagara river.

This shows the tendency of the current to deposit what comes out of the river in that vicinity. The distance is between 30 and 40 miles.

On Sunday morning the undersigned, with Doctors John D. Henry and Ezra Strong, who attended Morgan through several fits of sickness, and Mr. Lester Beardslee and Russel Dyer, who were intimately acquainted with him, arrived at the mouth of the creek; Mrs. Morgan and several witnesses from Batavia came soon afterwards. The coroner issued his warrant for a new inquest. Before noon from 150 to 200 citizens, from the distance of 8 to 20 miles arrived. Before Mrs. Morgan crossed the creek, and before the body was taken from the grave, Dr. Henry took from the lips of Mrs. Morgan, and wrote down a minute description of the person of her husband, and of

the marks by which she expected to identify him. She had furnished, and gave to Dr. Henry, the two teeth extracted by Dr. Strong, and told him from what part of the upper jaw they were taken, and described the situation and appearance of the broken tooth: she stated also that there was a scar and callous on the great toe of the left foot, occasioned by being frozen in such a way as to render an incision necessary, and the bone affected to be scraped.

After the jurors had personally examined the body, the Coroner commenced the examination of witnesses. The testimony was carefully written down, read over and subscribed by each witness. Every spectator had time and opportunity to examine the body with as much minuteness as they desired. All persons whom it was supposed knew anything connected with inquiry were sworn. The following is a minute of the testimony, copied from notes taken at the examination:—

STILLMAN HOXSIE, being sworn, testified that he found the body on the shore of the Lake, near where it now lies—that the body was lying on the face, head towards the shore, and one hand and one foot in the edge of the water: he found it a week ago yesterday, between 11 and 12 o'clock, and gave information to the Coroner before moving the body. The body was dressed in a dandy coat, black, black vest and pantaloons, woollen socks, home made woollen shirt, cowhide shoes, and cotton or silk flag handkerchief about his neck—witness did not know how long the body had lain there. The body is now more swollen and blacker than it then was, particularly about the face and head.

LESTER BEARDSLEE testified, that he had examined the head of the body, that he knew William Morgan, and saw him in August before he was missing; that the shape of Morgan's head, his hair, and his ears, were similar to those features on the body. Morgan showed witness his teeth about four years ago, which were what is commonly called double teeth all around; there were no teeth gone at that time. The teeth in this body are double teeth, similar to Morgan's. Morgan's ears were filled with hairs more than people in general, which were long and white; his beard was gray; he wore no whiskers that I remember; he was bald on the top of his head, and the hair behind and at the sides of his head was long and usually combed up, to cover his baldness; he had a small nose; Morgan had more hair on his breast than most people, and a full chest, in which respect the body resembles him. Morgan had light eyes, lightish complexion; his height corresponds with that of the body; should think Morgan was over 50

years of age. Witness thinks that this body is the body of William Morgan.

THURLOW WEED, being sworn, says—that he came here in company with others on Saturday last to examine the body, and that he assisted in disinterring it. He says that Mr. Fitch, in describing the head and hair of Morgan, before the grave was opened, stated that his ears were full of long gray hairs. Upon looking into the ears of this body, witness did not find the hairs so thick as Mr. Fitch represented, (although several long and gray remained there,) but that in the course of the examination he found a mass of hair lodged in the bottom of the ear, corresponding with the hair described by Mr. Fitch, which had evidently dropped out, and fell into the ear: witness took this hair out in the presence of Mr. Dyer and Mr. Byington. Today, having a better view of the right ear, many hairs, long, and gray, are to be seen there.

RUSSEL DYER testified, that he knew William Morgan. The shape of Morgan's head, his hair, his double teeth in front, were similar to this body. Morgan had one tooth gone in the upper jaw, and the next one to it was broken, or split, in which respect the body resembles him; when witness heard the report of the Coroner in relation to the body which was published, in which it was stated that two teeth were gone in the lower jaw, witness then said, that if the teeth were gone from the lower jaw of the head of this body, it could not be the body of Wm. Morgan; thinks he saw Morgan a year ago in August last; he had boarded with me; never knew he had had the small or kine pox; does not recollect any scar about the body; when witness first saw the body day before yesterday, he observed some long hairs in the ears, some of which fell out. Morgan informed me about three years ago that he was then fifty-one years of age; he had hair upon his breast, and a gray beard. Witness then declared he had no doubt but this was the body of William Morgan.

DAVID C. MILLER testified, that he knew William Morgan: he has partly examined the body; could not say that it was the body of William Morgan; did not know that Morgan had double teeth all around, or that he had lost two teeth; his dress when he left Batavia a year ago last September, was a blue frock coat, blue vest and blue pantaloons, and thinks he had on boots; my impression is, that he was wholly bald on the top of his head; he was 50 years of age, or over; he had a habit when he was in conversation of drawing his hair with his fingers over the top of his head.

GEORGE W. HARRIS testified, that he knew William

Morgan, and that he has seen the body—witness is a silversmith in Batavia, and Morgan used to shave at a glass in witness' shop, and witness remarked that Morgan shaved higher up his face than any man witness ever saw; this body has been shaved, as appears by the beard, almost up to the eyes; does not recollect particularly about his hair; saw Morgan the day he was taken from Batavia, and had known him for more than a year previous; his dress when he went away was a blue frock coat, blue vest, and blue pantaloons, and old boots; he never wore a flannel shirt, as witness ever saw, but he might have worn a flannel wrapper. The size and shape of Morgan's fingers and finger nails were similar to those of this body. Morgan had a double chin, and though the face of the body is much swollen, it has the appearance of having a double chin. Morgan had a fine set of teeth, and had lost some, the vacancies of which he showed when he grated his teeth or laughed; he had an extreme full chest, and his bosom was covered with a quantity of gray hair. The color of his hair was the same as that of this body. Morgan was not far from 50 years of age, I should think, and he was about 5 feet 8 inches high; don't know that he ever had the small or kine pox; he had a tapering arm and hand, and a small wrist; he had a lump or protuberance on his head, a little above his forehead, and I observed a similar appearance upon this body. Witness feels satisfied, beyond a doubt, that this is the body of William Morgan—he had a short nose; was a brick-layer by trade, and lived over my shop. Before he went away he used to be agitated in conversing about his situation, would walk the shop in a perturbed manner, and frequently grating his teeth.

LUCINDA MORGAN testified—that she was the wife of William Morgan, of Batavia. The last time she saw him was the 11th of September, 1826; he had on then a blue coat, blue vest, and blue pantaloons—the pantaloons of a different kind of cloth from the coat and vest; he never wore a flannel shirt, but wore flannel wrappers—he had on boots and woolen socks, the boots were old and worn, and thinks they were calf skin; he had on a white neck-handkerchief, and linen shirt, and had with him a flag silk pocket handkerchief, something worn—she thinks she should know the clothes if she saw them; he used tobacco. Witness has seen the body, and finds points of resemblance between it and her husband—the teeth, the hands, the breast, the nails on the fingers and toes, are similar—he had been inoculated for the small-pox on his left arm—he had double teeth all around—two teeth were gone from

the upper jaw. Dr. Strong extracted both of the teeth, which witness had with her; on the right side of the upper jaw the tooth next to one of those which were extracted was split off; the suspenders which he had on were cotton knit; his coat pockets were white; coat was lined or faced with cloth similar to the coat itself; the lining of the pantaloons was white, and believes of white linen. My husband was bald on the top of his head, except small place in the center, which was covered with thin, fine hair; he dressed his hair latterly by combing it down over his head; witness has no doubt but this is the body of her husband. The joint of his big toe on his left foot had been frozen, and the bone had become so affected that the physician made an incision into the flesh, and scraped the bone, which left a scar similar in appearance to a scar on the same place on this body; he had a good deal of hair on his breast, which was gray; he was very full breasted; he never had any broken limb to my knowledge. The Coroner then showed the clothes which the body had on when found, and the tracts and scrap of writing found in the pockets, when witness testified that she had never seen any of those articles of dress before, or the tracts; she could not swear to the handwriting on the paper exhibited, though one or two of the letters were something similar to her husband's handwriting. Witness then stated, in answer to a question put by a juryman, that she was fully convinced in her own mind that this is the body of her husband, William Morgan.

DAVID C. MILLER testified—that the handwriting on the paper exhibited was not the handwriting of William Morgan.

HENRY HENDERSON testified — that he knew William Morgan when in Batavia; and that he had examined the body. The upper part of the head, the beard, the teeth, the hair on the beard, resembled similar points on Morgan's person. Morgan used to comb up his hair to cover the baldness on his head, and often used a handkerchief for that purpose—the height of Morgan was about the same as that of this body; witness has no doubt but this is the body of William Morgan. Saw Morgan a short time before he was taken from Batavia; knew him for more than a year previous; had played whist with him often, and saw him at least once a week; he had a heavy, gray beard, grav hair; did not notice hairs in his ears; he had a short nose, don't recollect about his double chin,

DR. EZRA STRONG testified—that he knew Morgan four years ago, from the month of April to the month of September in the next year. He and his wife boarded at

my house about six months—he was sick most of the time with inflamed eyes; I attended him two or three months, sometimes alone, and sometimes other physicians were called in. Witness thinks from the upper part of the head of this body that it is the body of William Morgan. Whilst he boarded with me I extracted two teeth from him, as I found by charges in my book; does not recollect which jaw they were taken from; two teeth have been extracted from this body. Mrs. Morgan handed me the two teeth which she said I extracted, and they will slide into the places or vacancies in the head of this body quite well, though the face is so much swollen it is impossible to decide exactly whether they were taken from this head. Morgan had a heavy beard, and much hair on his breast. The body has been inoculated, as appears by a scar on the arm; another tooth in the body is broken or split off. If a body had been floating about in the water, exposed to the air, since the time Morgan was missing, it would have putrified more than this body; but if it had been under water, it might have been better preserved.

WILLIAM W. MORGAN testified—that he knew William Morgan considerably. The head, the beard, the hair upon the breast of this body, resembled Morgan's, and the make of the features are similar. Does not recollect anything about Morgan's teeth; was acquainted with him two years ago last February, and saw him frequently from that time until he was missing. I was absent from Batavia about nine months during the time, but saw him frequently.

DR. JOHN D. HENRY testified—that he knew William Morgan when he resided in Rochester, and attended him as a physician; does not recollect any strong marks about him by which he could identify this body as his. He had inflamed eyes, and I prescribed for him for nearly nine months; knew his hair, but cannot identify this body by that to his satisfaction. I remember his whiskers, and shaved them frequently. He had fine teeth in front, which he was very anxious should not be injured by salivation. The teeth of this body appear as I should expect the teeth of Morgan would appear, the shape of this head, though much bloated, is very similar to the head of Morgan. I should be unwilling to say that this was Morgan's body, or that it was not, though the teeth, the shape of the head, and the hair resemble Morgan's. It would be impossible for me to decide whether the body could be preserved as this has been. I should not suppose it was remarkable to find a body preserved as this is—many bodies decay sooner than others, and much depends upon exposure to the air, and the sun; they might have been better, or

might have been worse preserved. Cannot determine from the appearance, whether this body has been bound about the hands or feet. Mrs. Morgan, before she saw the body, described the place where two teeth had been taken from her husband, and showed me the teeth; she likewise described the manner in which one had been broken off, and a scar on one of the great toes. On examining this body I find two teeth gone, and one broken off, as described, and also a mark on one of the great toes—the two teeth which she had will slide into and fill the vacancies in the jaw pretty well.

Orleans County } An inquisition indented and taken for
ss: } the people of the State of New York, at the town of Carlton, in the county of Orleans aforesaid, in the open air, on the shore of Lake Ontario, in said county and town, the fifteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, before me, Robert M. Brown, gentleman, one of the Coroners of the said State, for the county aforesaid, upon the view of the body of William Morgan, then and there lying dead upon the earth, of John Archer, Silas Joy, Suell Joy, Wm. Williams, Matthew Dunham, John Barnum, R. Wilcox, Rodney Parish, John H. Tyler, Asa Simpson, Asa Kimball, I. Hall, Stephen Jennings, Richard Barry, Ebenezer Handy, Abel Barnum, John Murdock, Samuel Baldwin, Asahel Byington, Reuben Scofield, Jesse Hall, James Tefft and L. G. Hoxsie, good and lawful men of the said county, who, being sworn and charged to enquire on the part of the people of the State of New York aforesaid, when, where, how, and after what manner, the said William Morgan, came to his death, do say upon their oaths aforesaid, that the said William Morgan came to his death by suffocation by drowning, and so the said jurors aforesaid do say, he, the said Wm. Morgan came to his death—In witness whereof, as well the said Coroner as the jurors aforesaid, have to their inquisition set their hands and seals, the day and year aforesaid, at the place aforesaid.

Samuel Baldwin, FOREMAN—Asahel Byington, John H. Tyler, L. G. Hoxsie, Asa Simpson, John Barnum, Abel S. Barnum, James Tefft, A. Kimball, Matthew Dunham, Stephen Jennings, S. Joy, Silas Joy, John Archer, Richard Barry, Rodney Parish, Jesse Hall, John Murdock, Reuben Scofield, Wm. Williams, E. Handy, R. Wilcox, and Israel Hall.

ROBERT M. BROWN, Coroner.

After an examination of about four hours the testimony was closed, and the jury of inquest, consisting of twenty-three members, consulted a moment together and agreed unanimously upon their verdict, that it was "THE BODY OF WILLIAM MORGAN, AND THAT HE CAME TO HIS DEATH BY SUFFOCATION BY DROWNING," which verdict was made up in the form of an inquisition and signed by the whole panel.

We have been thus particular in the statement of the facts and testimony, knowing that the subject was one of engrossing interest to the community, and that curiosity would be awakened to learn all the circumstances, that each individual for himself might apply his own judgment to the case, and decide whether the identity had been established.

For ourselves we do conceive that the body discovered on the shore of Lake Ontario has been identified as the body of Capt. WILLIAM MORGAN, beyond the shadow of a doubt. In this discovery we cannot but trace the hand of an overruling Providence, who, when all human efforts were found too weak effectually to penetrate the mysterious secret, has chosen in his own time, and by his own means to throw a broad light upon this dark mystery. This induces us to rely with a stronger hope upon the same Providence to unravel the remainder of this entangled skein, and to provide means for bringing all the perperators of a daring outrage to merited punishment.

SAMUEL WORKS,
FREDERICK F. BACKUS,
FREDERICK WHITTLESEY,
THURLOW WEED.

Rochester, Oct. 17th, 1827.

CATALOGUE

of

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FREE MASONRY

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ODD-FELLOWSHIP

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

and

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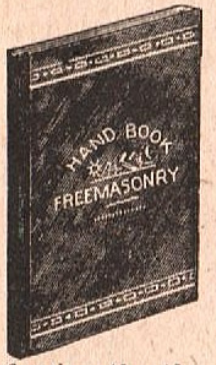

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